



Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., right, and Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., arrive for a Senate vote on military sexual assault legislation on Capitol Hill on Monday, March 10, 2014, in Washington.
 (AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

Senate OKs Bill To Combat Military Sexual Assault

DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved a bill late Monday making big changes in the military justice system to deal with sexual assault, including scrapping the nearly century-old practice

of using a “good soldier defense” to raise doubts that a crime has been committed. On a vote of 97-0, the Senate rallied behind a bipartisan plan crafted by three female senators — Democrat Claire McCaskill and Republicans Kelly Ayotte

and Deb Fischer— that would impose a half-dozen changes to combat the pervasive problem of rape and sexual offenses that Pentagon leaders have likened to a cancer within the ranks. “Unanimous agreement in the U.S. Senate is pretty rare

— but rarer still is the kind of sweeping, historic change we’ve achieved over the past year in the military justice system,” McCaskill said after the vote. Still, that unanimous support was in sharp contrast to last week, when military leaders vigorously opposed

a measure by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand that would have stripped commanders of their authority to prosecute cases and given that power to seasoned military lawyers outside the chain of command.

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US PUBLIC TRANSIT REACHES HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE 1956

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RUSSIANS WARN ON LAWLESSNESS IN EAST UKRAINE

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Speculation widens over missing jet's fate

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WASHINGTON - Watching a seat-back display with a plane-shaped icon gliding across the map, it is easy to forget that in true scale, the airplane is very small and the route very large. As the hours and days drag by with no trace of the Malaysia Airlines flight that dis-

ated from its planned flight path, or how long the pilots could still fly the aircraft after the last reported contact. Assuming that the plane remained in powered flight or a controlled glide, the potential search area would have to be wide and long, covering thousands of square miles.

searches are sometimes needed. When Air France Flight 447 vanished over the Atlantic in June 2009, it took five days to find any wreckage, and almost two years to find the black boxes. Similarly, the cockpit data recorder from a South African Airways Boeing 747 that went down in

evidence of foul play has come to light. No group has claimed responsibility for downing the jet either, though as Reiner noted concerning the 747 that exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, "when Gadhafi's guys blew up Pan Am 103, they weren't talking about it."



Malaysia's Department of Civil Aviation's Director General Azharuddin Abdul Rahman briefs reporters on search and recovery efforts within existing and new areas for missing Malaysia Airlines plane during a press conference, Monday, March 10, 2014 in Sepang, Malaysia.

(AP Photo/Daniel Chan)

appeared over the Gulf of Thailand early Saturday, the world is getting a reminder that if something goes wrong on a jet five miles up in the sky, traveling at 10 miles a minute, it can cover a lot of ground - or water - before it comes down to earth. There is only speculation about what happened to the missing flight, which was headed to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital. But Arnie Reiner, a retired captain with US Airways and former chief accident investigator at Pan Am, noted, "If they somehow got turned around or went off course when the thing was going down, it could be 90 or 100 miles away from where the flight data disappeared." It is not yet known whether the Malaysian plane devi-

After more than two days of fruitless search, Malaysian officials expanded the search area Monday. The rule of thumb for a crew planning a normal descent to an airport is to allow three miles of distance for every thousand feet of altitude. So a jetliner at 30,000 feet that cut its engines to idle would fly another 90 miles or so before reaching a runway near sea level. Not all planes that go down at sea prove difficult to locate. When Egyptair Flight 990 crashed 60 miles from Nantucket Island, Mass., on Oct. 31, 1999, investigators quickly concluded that the aircraft, a Boeing 767, had followed a straight track, and Navy searchers picked up signals from the "pingers" on the aircraft's black box data recorders the next day. But extended

November 1987 was not located until January 1989. It revealed that the plane crashed because of a fire onboard, not because of an act of terrorism, so no further search was conducted for the flight data recorder, the other black box. Another rule of thumb for pilots may shed light on why no distress signal was heard from the Malaysia Airlines flight. Pilots have a mantra for setting priorities in an emergency: Aviate, navigate, communicate. The first priority is to fly the airplane. Telling air traffic controllers on the ground what is going on comes third, since doing so is unlikely to instantly yield any help with the crisis in the cockpit, whatever it is. Although officials have not ruled out terrorism in the Malaysia Airlines case, no

The mystery will probably not be solved until the wreckage, and especially the black boxes, are recovered. The wreckage alone could yield important clues, including whether the plane broke up in flight, suffered an explosion or had a mechanical failure. In most crashes, definitive findings on these questions take months or even years to establish. A team of American experts from the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing has been sent to the area and is waiting for something concrete to go on. The team members "stand ready to assist in any way they can," said Kelly Nantel, a spokeswoman for the safety board in Washington. □

North Korea: Not a single vote against Kim Jong Un

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — With no one else

on the ballot, state media reported Monday that supreme leader Kim Jong Un was not only elected to the highest legislative body in North Korea, he won with the unanimous approval of his district, which had 100 percent turnout.

North Koreans went to the polls on Sunday to approve the new roster of deputies for the Supreme People's Assembly, the country's legislature. The vote, more a political ritual than an election by Western standards, is generally held once every five years. Though results for the other seats in the assembly had not yet been announced, North Korea's media quickly reported Kim had won in his district — located on the symbolic Mount Paekdu — without a single dissenting ballot.

In the previous elections, 687 deputies were chosen. This is first time the election had been held since Kim inherited power after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, in 2011.

"This is an expression of all the service personnel and people's absolute support and profound trust in supreme leader Kim Jong Un as they single-mindedly remain loyal to him," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said.

Voters in the election have no choice who to vote for — there is only one candidate's name on the ballot for each district. Instead, they have the choice of voting yes or no, and according to official accounts virtually all choose yes. North Korea also typically puts turnout nationwide at over 99 percent.

"I will simply say that is not a model for democracy around the world," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Monday when asked about the election at a Washington news briefing. □

More than 3,500 police planned for Boston Marathon

BOSTON (AP) — The number of police officers patrolling this year's Boston Marathon will be doubled to over 3,500, one year after two bombs exploded near the finish line, killing three people and injuring more than 260.

The enhanced police presence is part of a beefed-up security plan detailed Monday by public safety officials as they prepare for the April 21 marathon.

Spectators who plan to attend the marathon are being strongly discouraged from bringing backpacks, rolling bags, coolers and other large items, and are instead being asked to carry personal items in clear plastic bags. Anyone who does bring a bulky bag will be subject to search, officials said during a news conference at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's bunker in Framingham.

The new guidelines for spectators are similar to rules for runners made public several weeks ago by the Boston Athletic Association.

Authorities said they sought to strike a balance between keeping the traditional feel and character of the marathon and tightening security in response to last year's deadly terror attack.

"We are confident that the overall experience of runners and spectators will not be impacted, and that all will enjoy a fun, festive and family-oriented day," said Kurt Schwartz, director of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

Schwartz said police are looking to spectators to be especially vigilant and report any suspicious items or activity.

Like runners, spectators are also being told they cannot bring containers with more than 1 liter of liquid and cannot wear bulky costumes or anything that covers their faces.

Unregistered runners known as "bandits" will be prohibited this year. □

US subpoenas port authority records tied to chairman

WILLIAM K. RASHBAUM
KATE ZERNIKE

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NEW YORK - Federal prosecutors in Manhattan have subpoenaed the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for records related to potential conflicts of interest involving its chairman, David Samson, a prominent New Jersey lawyer and close political ally of Gov. Chris Christie, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

The business dealings of Samson and his law firm, Wolff & Samson, have come under intense scrutiny as a result of the politically charged closing of access lanes to the George Washington Bridge in September and the scandal that ensued. The lane closings are the subject of a separate inquiry by federal prosecutors in New Jersey, who are examining the roles of several current and former aides and allies of Christie. Neither of the federal prosecutor's offices would comment on the subpoena nor on its possible connection to the bridge inquiry. But an examination of possible conflicts of interest involving Samson would appear to represent a significant widening of the scandal. In addition to the inquiry into the lane closings, which is being conducted by the office of the New Jersey U.S. attorney, Paul

J. Fishman, the scandal has already led to at least one other investigation by his office, focused in part on members of Christie's administration. That inquiry is examining allegations by the mayor of Hoboken, Dawn Zimmer, that Christie's lieutenant governor threatened to withhold hurricane recovery funds if the mayor did not support a development project favored by the governor.

There is also an extensive

investigation underway by a joint committee of the New Jersey legislature into who ordered the closing of the two access lanes in Fort Lee, N.J., and why. Samson's name came up in emails released in the early days of that inquiry, and he later received a subpoena from the committee seeking his email, correspondence and other communications. Those early emails suggested that he was unconcerned that

thousands of people might have been trapped in the traffic jam caused by the lane closings, but angered by the efforts of the Port Authority's executive director, Patrick J. Foye, to get to the bottom of the jam.

The federal subpoena seeking records related to Samson's potential conflicts at the Port Authority, however, is the first public indication that criminal investigators might be focusing specifically on him. □



David Samson, chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, at a board meeting in New York. Federal prosecutors in Manhattan subpoenaed the Port Authority for records related to potential conflicts of interest involving Samson, a lawyer and close political ally of Gov. Chris Christie, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

(Richard Perry/The New York Times)

Senate OKs Bill to combat military sexual assault

Continued from Front

The Senate voted 55-45 for that farther-reaching bill, but that was five votes short of the necessary 60. Though expressing certain reservations, the Pentagon had been generally accepting of the new bill. The House could act on the legislation as a stand-alone measure or incorporate it into the massive defense policy bill that it pulls together in the spring. This "is not the end of this," Ayotte said in brief remarks on the Senate floor after the vote. "We will

make sure reforms are implemented, commanders are held accountable and victims are treated with dignity and respect."

The new legislation would change the military rules of evidence to prohibit the accused from using good military character as an element of his defense in court-martial proceedings unless it was directly relevant to the alleged crime. The "good soldier defense" could encompass a defendant's military record of reliability, dependability, professionalism and reputation as an individual who could be counted on in war and

peacetime.

McCaskill described it as "the ridiculous notion that how well one flies a plane should have anything to do with whether they committed a crime."

Under the bill, the defense could still be used in the sentencing phase. The Pentagon has indicated that it is crucial as commanders adjust sentences to allow for plea agreements.

The measure also would give accusers a greater say in whether their cases are litigated in the military system or civilian and would establish a confidential process to allow alleged

victims to challenge their separation or discharge from the military. In addition, it would increase the accountability of commanders and extend all changes related to sexual assault cases to the service academies.

The Pentagon has estimated that as many as 26,000 military members may have been sexually assaulted in 2012, based on an anonymous survey.

Many victims are still unwilling to come forward despite new oversight and assistance programs aimed at curbing abuse, the military says. □

Methodists end same-sex wedding case

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A United Methodist bishop on Monday dropped the case against a retired minister accused of breaking church law by officiating his son's same-sex wedding — a dramatic decision that came just months after another minister was defrocked for the same reason.

The Rev. Thomas Ogletree, 80, a former dean of the Yale Divinity School, said he's grateful his church had

The bishop later told The Associated Press that it was clear the minister, by conducting the same-sex rite, had "violated the Discipline" — as Methodists call their ecclesiastical laws.

But the bishop said the best way to deal with the case was to bring it to what he called "a just resolution. We didn't dismiss the case — we resolved it."

And then, he said, "the question was, do we go the punishment journey, or something more nuanced?"

exact same 'crime' of officiating at their son's same sex weddings — one is defrocked, the other one's case is dropped without conditions," he said in a statement.

Still, Schaefer added, he's "very happy" Ogletree and his family will be spared an internal church trial that was "an emotional ordeal that I never want to experience again."

He added, "Thank you Bishop McLee!"

McLee's decision is considered a victory for Method-



Rev. Thomas Ogletree speaks to the media during a news conference following the announcement that a case against him for breaking church law by officiating his son's same-sex marriage had been dropped, Monday, March 10, 2014, in White Plains, N.Y. Ogletree, 80, said he's grateful the church had decided not to prosecute him for what he called "an act of pastoral faithfulness and fatherly love."

(AP Photo/John Minchillo)

decided not to put him on trial for what he called "an act of pastoral faithfulness and fatherly love."

The United Methodist Church, the second-largest U.S. Protestant group, has debated for four decades whether to recognize same-sex relationships. Bishop Martin McLee, who made the announcement at a news conference in White Plains, a New York suburb, also called on church officials to stop prosecuting other pastors for marrying same-sex couples. The bishop said he would cease trials over the issue in the district he leads, which covers 462 churches in New York and Connecticut. Ogletree lives in Guilford, Conn.

McLee said the resolution was to ask Ogletree to participate in a public forum later this year — a broad discussion about divisions among Methodists over gay relationships and about how the church deals with human sexuality. Ogletree's was the second high-profile United Methodist case in recent months over same-sex relationships. In December, the Rev. Frank Schaefer, a minister from Pennsylvania, was defrocked after he officiated at his son's same-sex wedding.

On Monday, Schaefer welcomed Monday's decision but noted it didn't seem fair.

"Two United Methodist ministers are charged with the

ists who have defied the church law that considers homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching." Conservative Methodists have been pressing church leaders to discipline clergy who preside at gay weddings.

Ogletree presided over the wedding of his son, Thomas Rimbey Ogletree, to Nicholas Haddad on Oct. 20, 2012, at the Yale Club in New York City.

Some Methodist clergy filed a complaint against the minister after the wedding announcement appeared in The New York Times. The lead complainant was the Rev. Randall C. Paige, pastor of Christ Church in Port Jefferson Station on Long Island. □

Newtown gunman's father opens up in magazine article

NEW YORK (AP) — In his most extensive public comments about the 2012 Connecticut school massacre, the father of gunman Adam Lanza describes his anguished struggle to comprehend what his son did — an act that "couldn't get any more evil" — and how he has come to wish that his son had never been born.

Peter Lanza also told The New Yorker magazine in a series of interviews last fall that he believes Adam would have killed him, too, if he had the chance. And he often contemplates what he could have done differently in his relationship with Adam, although he believes the killings couldn't have been predicted.

"Any variation on what I did and how my relationship was had to be good, because no outcome could be worse," Peter Lanza told the magazine in an article dated March 17. "You can't get any more evil. ... How much do I beat up on myself about the fact that he's my son? A lot."

He said he hadn't seen his son in two years when Adam killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown in December 2012. Adam killed himself as police arrived. He also fatally shot his mother, Nancy, in their Newtown home before going to the school.

The magazine interviews are Peter Lanza's first public comments since he released a statement the day after the massacre expressing sympathy for the victims' families and confusion over his son's actions.

Peter and Nancy Lanza separated in 2001 and divorced in 2009. He last saw Adam in October 2010 and wanted to maintain contact with him. His mother, Nancy Lanza, wrote him an email saying Adam didn't want to see him, despite her efforts to reason with him. Several plans to meet with his son fell through. Peter Lanza said he felt frustrated and even considered hiring a private investigator to find out what his son was doing "so I could bump into him." He said he felt that showing up unannounced at his son's home would only make things worse.

Peter Lanza said Adam was 13 when a psychiatrist diagnosed him with Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism not associated with violence. But he believes the syndrome "veiled a contaminant" that wasn't Asperger's.

"I was thinking it could mask schizophrenia," said Peter Lanza, who lives in Fairfield County, Connecticut, and is vice president for taxes at a General Electric subsidiary, GE Energy Financial Services.

A spokesman for Peter Lanza said Monday that Lanza would not be commenting further.

Peter Lanza told the magazine that his son was a young child "just a normal little weird kid" who used to spend hours with his father playing with Legos.

But as he grew older, Adam's mental health problems worsened, according to Connecticut State Police documents. A Yale University professor diagnosed Lanza in 2006 with profound autism spectrum disorder, "with rigidity, isolation, and a lack of comprehension of ordinary social interaction and communications," while also displaying symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder, the documents show.

Peter Lanza said his and Nancy Lanza's concerns about Adam increased when he began middle school.

"It was crystal clear something was wrong," he said. "The social awkwardness, the uncomfortable anxiety, unable to sleep, stress, unable to concentrate, having a hard time learning, the awkward walk, reduced eye contact. □

Report:

Use of public transit in US reaches highest level since 1956

JON HURDLE

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PHILADELPHIA - More Americans used buses, trains and subways in 2013 than in any year since 1956 as service improved, local economies grew and travelers increasingly sought alternatives to the automobile for trips within metropolitan areas, the American Public Transportation Association said in a report released Monday.

The trade group said in its annual report that 10.65 billion passenger trips were taken on transit systems during the year, surpassing the post-1950s peak of 10.59 million in 2008, when gas prices rose to \$4 to \$5 a gallon.

The ridership in 2013, when gas prices were lower than in 2008, undermines the conventional wisdom that transit use rises when those prices exceed a certain threshold, and suggests that other forces are bolstering enthusiasm for pub-

lic transportation, said Michael Melaniphy, the president of the association.

"Now gas is averaging well under \$4 a gallon,

ridership rose 37 percent, well ahead of a 20 percent growth in population and a 23 percent increase in vehicle miles traveled,

reported, and transit agencies are nurturing growth by expanding their systems or improving services.

"We're seeing that where

biggest gains in rail service and in bus service for smaller cities.

In New York, where use of all modes of transit in the



Riders wait on the platform for a subway train at the Myrtle Avenue station in the Brooklyn borough of New York. The American Public Transportation Association announced on March 10, 2014, that Americans took more trips on mass transit in 2013 than any year since 1956, with the biggest gains coming in rail service and in bus services in smaller cities.

(Michael Kirby Smith/The New York Times)

the economy is coming back and people are riding transit in record numbers," Melaniphy said in an interview. "We're seeing a fundamental shift in how people are moving about their communities."

From 1995 to 2013, transit

according to the association's data.

Stronger economic growth is playing an important role in the increased use of public transit, as more people are using the systems to get to an increasing number of jobs, the association

cities have invested in transit, their unemployment rates have dropped, and employment is going up because people can get there," Melaniphy said.

Overall public transit ridership increased by 1.1 percent from 2012, with the

Metropolitan Transportation Authority increased 3.6 percent last year, according to the data, ridership has been bolstered by falling unemployment and improved service, said Kevin Ortiz, a spokesman for the authority. □

Survey: US uninsured rate drops; health law cited

RICARDO ZALDIVAR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The share of Americans without health insurance is dropping to the lowest levels since President Barack Obama took office, but sign-ups under his health care law lag among Hispanics — a big pool of potential beneficiaries. The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index found that 15.9 percent of U.S. adults are uninsured thus far in 2014, down from 17.1 percent for the last three months — or calendar quarter — of 2013.

Released Monday, the survey based on more than 28,000 interviews is a major independent effort to track the health care rollout. The drop of 1.2 percentage points in the uninsured rate translates to about 3 million people gaining coverage. There are three weeks left to sign up for health care under Obama's health care program, his signa-

ture — and controversial — domestic policy achievement. Republicans are virtually uniformly opposed to the 3-year-old law and are seeking to make a major issue of it ahead of the November general elections, when control of Congress will be at stake. Opponents consider taxes associated with the law burdensome for businesses and also object to a requirement that virtually all Americans get covered or risk fines. They also point to the numerous glitches that first plagued the health care website created by the Obama administration to help people find coverage.

Gallup said the drop coincides with the start of coverage under the health care law on Jan. 1. The major elements are now in effect. Insurers can no longer turn away people with health problems. New state-based markets are offering taxpayer-subsidized private insurance to

middle-class households. Gallup said the proportion of Americans who are uninsured is on track to drop to the lowest quarterly level it measured since 2008, before Obama took office.

"It's probably a reasonable hypothesis that the Affordable Care Act is having

something to do with this drop," said Frank Newport, Gallup's editor-in-chief, referring to the law by its official name.

The major elements of the law are now in effect. Insurers can no longer turn away people with health problems. New state-

based markets are offering taxpayer-subsidized private insurance to middle-class households.

The survey found that almost every major demographic group made progress getting health insurance, although Hispanics lagged. □

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Black Twitter growing into online force

Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — When a U.S. jury convicted Michael Dunn of attempted murder, but not actual murder, in the shooting death of a black teenager, the hashtag #dangerousblackkids popped up on Twitter. Users posted photos of black babies and toddlers, making fun of the fear that Dunn testified he felt before opening fire on a car full of teens at a convenience store. That hashtag was the calling card of Black Twitter, a small corner of the social media giant where an unabashedly black spin on life gets served up in 140-character installments. Black Twitter shares opinions on everything from President Barack Obama to the latest TV reality show. But Black Twitter can also turn activist quickly. "Black Twitter brings the fullness of black humanity into the social network, and that is why it has become so fascinating," said Kimberly C. Ellis, who has a doctorate in American and Africana Studies, tweets as @drgoddess and is studying Black Twitter for her upcoming book, "The Bombastic Brilliance of Black Twitter." According to a Pew Research Center report, while similar numbers of blacks and whites use the Internet — 80 percent and 87 percent, respectively — 22 percent of those blacks who were online used Twitter in 2013, compared with 16 percent of online whites. Meredith Clark, a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill who is writing her dissertation on Black Twitter, likened it to "Freedom's Journal," the first African American newspaper in the United States. On that publication's first front

page in 1827, it declared: "We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us." "If you are from a particularly marginalized community or one where others have spoken for you, but you have not had the agency to really speak for yourself or make your truth known, then it is absolutely necessary that in any instance you can take on that agency that you do so," said Clark, who tweets from @meredithclark. "And so that is what you see hap-

pening in Black Twitter." Mainstream U.S. media first took serious notice of Black Twitter last year, when it abruptly rose up to kill a book deal for a juror in the trial of George Zimmer-

attempt to halt the execution of Georgia death row inmate Troy Davis, and the hashtag #OscarGrant on tweets about its activism over the police killing of black teenager Oscar



This photo shows Kimberly C. Ellis talking about Black Twitter at Freedom Corner in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. Black Twitter is a small but growing corner of the social media giant where an unabashedly black spin on life gets served up 140 characters at a time. Black Twitter holds court on pretty much everything from President Barack Obama to the latest TV reality show antics. But don't get it twisted. Black Twitter can turn activist quickly.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

man, who was acquitted of murder in the death of unarmed black teen Trayvon Martin. That was the first time that blacks used Twitter "in a very powerful and political way," said black social media consultant Crystal Washington. Twitter activism could be the sign of a new civil rights strategy, Ellis said. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People employed the hashtag #TooMuchDoubt for its unsuccessful

Grant, whose life was later documented in the movie "Fruitvale Station." Black Twitter also helped to fuel objections last year over Reebok's relationship with rapper Rick Ross, whose lyrics were being criticized as pro-rape. Ross had appeared in an ad for the Reebok Classic sneakers. He tweeted an apology before issuing a formal statement again apologizing. Once protesters showed up outside a Reebok store in New York, Reebok dropped the deal. □

He also accused Branko Bogdanov of misleading officials by claiming he's \$28,500 in debt. In fact, Mariotti said, he owns his \$1.3 million house and 12 vehicles, including a Lexus and Corvette. Separately, Mariotti accused Lela Bogdanov of exaggerating illness, saying her slow shuffle in court contrasted with surveillance video of her sprinting out of stores with toys and other items tucked under her skirt. But her attorney, Jim Fieweger, said she has cancer and denied she was feigning infirmity. □

Couple charged over shoplifting \$7 million jailed

MICHAEL TARM Associated Press CHICAGO (AP) — A Yugoslav couple living near Chicago accused of stealing \$7 million in goods in a decade-long shoplifting spree will stay in jail pending trial because they are flight risks, a federal judge ruled Monday. Branko Bogdanov, 58, and his wife, Lela Bogdanov, 52, allegedly operated in tandem with their daughter to pilfer merchandise and sell it on eBay. They were arrested last week at their home in the wealthy neighborhood of Northbrook. Prosecutor Renato Mariotti said the husband and wife emigrated from what was then Yugoslavia and are in the U.S. illegally. Both, he said, had arrest records. "This defendant has nothing to lose," Mariotti said at Monday's detention hearing, referring to the husband. "I think if you let him go ... he'll disappear." He also accused Branko Bogdanov of misleading officials by claiming he's \$28,500 in debt. In fact, Mariotti said, he owns his \$1.3 million house and 12 vehicles, including a Lexus and Corvette. Separately, Mariotti accused Lela Bogdanov of exaggerating illness, saying her slow shuffle in court contrasted with surveillance video of her sprinting out of stores with toys and other items tucked under her skirt. But her attorney, Jim Fieweger, said she has cancer and denied she was feigning infirmity. □

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US Financial Front:

Obama economists: Rosier picture if budget passed

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's top economists say the U.S. is on track to make economic progress over the next two years — and claim it would do even better if Congress would enact the additional spending he proposed in his budget. A divided Congress in an election year is not likely to heed that call. In their annual report to the president, the Council of Economic Advisers says the nation's economy would grow by 3.3 percent in 2014 and 3.5 percent in 2015 and that unemployment would drop to 6.4 percent in 2015 and 6 percent in 2016. February's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent. That forecast assumes that Congress would approve \$56 billion in spending that is above the limits set in a bipartisan budget agreement earlier this year. But midterm elections are limiting action in Congress this year and Republicans, who control the House of Representatives, have already indicated little interest in most of Obama's additional proposed spending. In effect, Obama's budget and the economic arguments behind it give Democrats a political platform for 2014. Republicans maintain the economy could be accelerating

faster but has been hindered by Obama's spending and taxing policies. Even without the infusion of government money called for in Obama's budget, the economy is likely to grow more than in 2013, according to most economists. They also say increases in housing construction and greater business investments will give the economy a boost as well. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office predicts the U.S. economy will grow 2.7 percent in 2014, and Goldman Sachs forecast growth of 2.8 percent this year. The Federal Reserve in December projected growth between 2.8 and 3.2 percent in 2014. □



Copies of President Barack Obama's proposed fiscal 2015 federal budget are set out for distribution by the Senate Budget Committee, on Capitol Hill in Washington.
 (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

Colorado collects \$2M in recreational pot taxes

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Colorado made roughly \$2 million in marijuana taxes in January, state revenue officials reported Monday. The tax total reported by the state Department of Revenue indicates \$14.02 million worth of recreational pot was sold. The state collected roughly \$2.01 million in taxes. Colorado legalized pot in 2012, but the commercial sale of marijuana didn't begin until January. Washington state sales begin in coming months.

The pot taxes come from 12.9 percent sales taxes and 15 percent excise taxes. Voters approved the pot taxes last year. They declared that the first \$40 million of the excise tax must go to school construction; the rest will be spent by state lawmakers. Colorado has about 160 state-licensed recreational marijuana stores, though local licensing kept some from opening in January. Local governments also have the ability to levy additional pot sales taxes if they wish. Monday's tax release intensified lobbying

over how Colorado should spend its pot money. Budget-writers expect the nascent marijuana industry to be extremely volatile for several years, making lawmakers nervous about how to spend the windfall. Budget-writing lawmakers joke that plenty of interests have their hands out to get a piece of the pot windfall. Gov. John Hickenlooper has already sent the Legislature a detailed \$134 million proposal for spending recreational and medical marijuana money, including new spending on anti-drug messaging to kids and

more advertising discouraging driving while high. State police chiefs have asked for more money, too. "The whole world wants to belly up to this trough," said Sen. Pat Steadman, who serves on Colorado's budget-writing Joint Budget Committee. Other countries also are watching Colorado, which has the world's first fully regulated recreational marijuana market. The Netherlands has legal sales of pot but does not allow growing or distribution. Uruguay's marijuana program is still under development. □

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Better Business Bureau lists top scams of the year

Susan Salisbury
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WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.
-- If you can spot a scam when it comes your way, you have a better chance of not falling for it. How do you know what to look for?

cious call, email, text or solicitation."
-- The Affordable Care Act scam takes the "prize" as the scam of the year, the BBB says. Scammers used the act as a way to

With promises of a "free" medical alert system, the scam targeted seniors and claimed to be offering the system free of charge because a family member or friend had already paid for it. In many cases, seniors

a way to fool sellers on Ebay and other online marketplaces into shipping goods without receiving payment. Usually the buyer claims it's an "emergency" and asks the seller to ship the same day. The seller receives an email that looks like it's from PayPal confirming the payment, but emails are easy to fake.

-- Arrest warrant scam -- In this scam, con artists are taking advantage of technology that can change what is visible on Caller ID, and allowing them to pose as a law enforcement officer. They call to say there is a warrant out for your arrest, but that you can pay a fine in order to avoid criminal charges. Of course, these "police" don't take credit cards; only a wire transfer or pre-paid debit card will do.

-- Invisible home improvements -- These scams involve some type of shoddy workmanship from unlicensed or untrained workers. Often they offer to work on roofs, chimneys, air ducts or other areas that you can't see. Scammers may simply knock at your door offering a great deal because they were "in the neighborhood," but more and more they are using telemarketing, email and even social media.

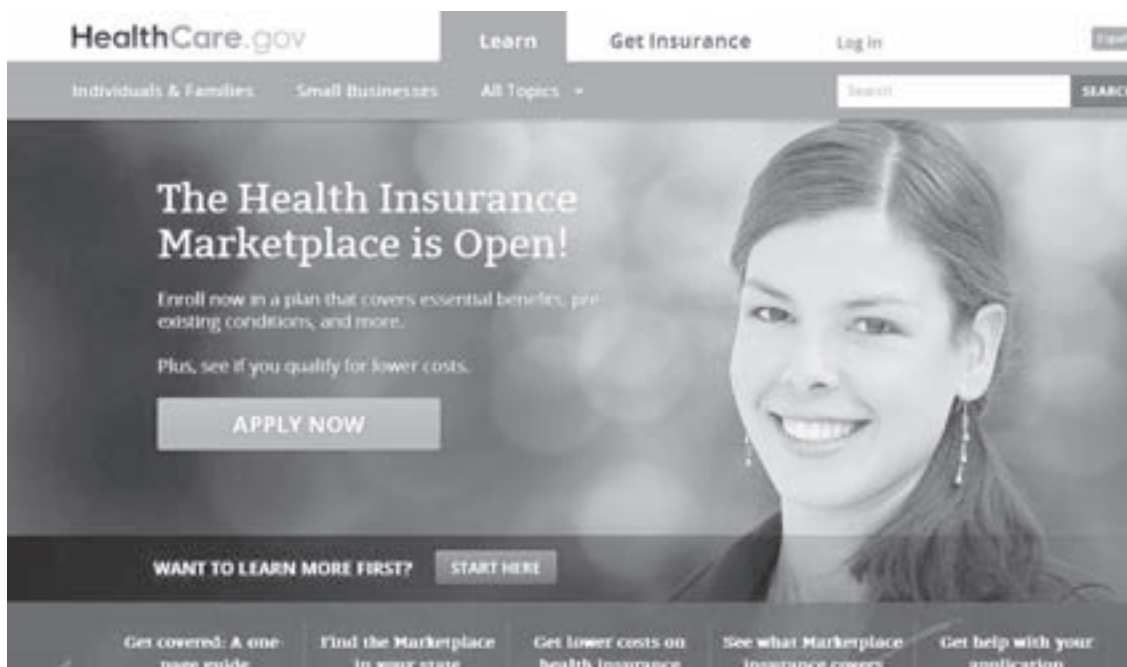
-- Casting call scam -- Scammers pose as agents or talent scouts looking for actors, singers, models, reality show contestants, etc., and use phony audition notices to fool aspiring performers into paying to

try out for parts that don't exist. It can simply be an unscrupulous way to sell acting lessons, photography services, etc., or it can be an outright scam for things like fees for online "applications" or upcoming "casting calls."

-- Foreign currency scam -- Scammers advertise an easy investment with high return and low risk when you purchase Iraqi dinar, Vietnamese dong or, most recently, the Egyptian pound. The plan is that, when those governments revalue their currencies, increasing their worth against the dollar, you just sell and cash in. Unlike previous hoaxes, you may even take possession of real currency. The problem is that they will be very difficult to sell, and it's extremely unlikely they will ever significantly increase in value.

-- Scam texts -- Known as "smishing," these are designed to steal personal information. They look like a text alert from your bank, asking you to confirm information or "reactivate your debit card" by following a link on your smartphone.

-- Do not call scams -- The National Do Not Call Registry offers consumers a free way to reduce telemarketing calls. Scammers call anyway, of course, and they've even found a way to scam consumers by pretending to be a government official calling to sign you up or confirming your previous participation on the Do Not call list.



Featured is a screenshot of the Affordable Care Act enrollment page. The Affordable Care Act scam takes the "prize" as the scam of the year, the BBB says.

(Handout Photo)

The Better Business Bureau just released its "Top scams of 2013."
"These are not necessarily the scams with the biggest losses, or those with the most victims, as many people don't report scams or even know they've been victimized," said Katherine Hutt, BBB spokeswoman. "These are the scams that seemed to be the most widespread, aimed at the most vulnerable, growing in popularity, or just plain audacious. Scams are every-changing, but we want to help people recognize them and be prepared the next time they get a suspi-

fool Americans into sharing their personal information. Scammers would call claiming to be from the federal government and saying the would-be victim needed a new insurance card or Medicare card. However, before they can mail the card, they need to collect personal information. They may have your bank's routing number and ask for your bank account number, credit card, Social Security number or other personal information. Sharing such information puts you at risk for identity theft.

-- Medical alert scam --

were asked to provide their bank account or credit information to "verify" their identity and, as a result, were charged the monthly \$35 service fee. The system, of course, never arrived and the seniors were left with a charge they had trouble getting refunded. Easy rule -- be wary of "free" offers that require your personal information upfront and always verify with the supposed friend or family member that the caller says paid for the service.

-- Auction reseller scam -- Scammers have figured out

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Russia warns Ukraine over 'lawlessness' in east

JIM HEINTZ
MARIA DANILOVA
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's foreign minister said Monday that his country was practically in a state of war with Russia, as Moscow further ratcheted up pressure on Kiev, claiming that Russian-leaning eastern regions have plunged into lawlessness.

Russian forces have effectively taken control over Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in what has turned into Europe's greatest geopolitical crisis since the end of the Cold War. On Sunday the region is to hold a referendum on whether to split off and become part of Russia, which the West says it will not recognize.

"We have to admit that our life now is almost like ... a war," Foreign Minister Andrii Deshchyt'sya said before meeting his counterparts from Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. "We have to cope with an aggression that we do not understand."

Deshchyt'sya said Ukraine is counting on help from the West. Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk is to meet with President Barack Obama in Washington on Wednesday.

On Monday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said lawlessness "now rules in eastern regions of Ukraine as a result of the actions of fighters of the so-called 'Right Sector,' with the full connivance" of Ukraine's new authorities.

Right Sector is a grouping of several far-right and nationalist factions whose activists were among the most radical and confrontational of the three-monthlong demonstrations in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, which eventually ousted President Viktor Ya-

nukovych.

The Kremlin statement also claimed Russian citizens trying to enter Ukraine have been turned back at the border by Ukrainian officials.

Pro-Russia sentiment is high in Ukraine's east and there are fears Russia could seek to incorporate that area as well.

Obama has warned that the referendum in Crimea

would violate international law. But on Sunday, Russian President Vladimir Putin made it clear that he supports the vote, in phone calls with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and

British Minister David Cameron.

"The steps taken by the legitimate leadership of Crimea are based on the norms of international law and aim to ensure the legal interests of the population of the peninsula," said Putin, according to the Kremlin.

On Monday, Putin was briefed by Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, on the contents of a document Lavrov received from Secretary of State John Kerry explaining the U.S. view of the situation in Ukraine.

That document contains "a concept which does not quite agree with us because everything was stated in terms of allegedly having a conflict between Russia and Ukraine, and in terms of accepting the fait accompli," Lavrov said. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left listens to Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, right, during their meeting at the Bocharov Ruchei residence in Sochi, southern Russia, Monday, March 10, 2014. Russia's foreign ministry is denouncing alleged lawlessness by far-right activists in eastern Ukraine. In the Monday statement, the ministry said lawlessness "now rules in eastern regions of Ukraine as a result of the actions of fighters of the so-called 'right sector' with the full connivance" of Ukraine's new authorities. (AP Photo/RIA-Novosti, Alexei Nikolsky)

Report: Syrian health care on brink of collapse

BARBARA SURK
Associated Press
BEIRUT (AP)

— Syria's health care system is on the brink of collapse, with medics forced to engage in "brutal medical practices" in order to save lives: knocking out patients with metal bars because of lack of anesthesia, or amputating infants' limbs for lack of other ways to treat their injuries, an international charity organization said in a report published on Monday.

Newborns die in hospital incubators during power outages, while millions of children have been exposed to deadly diseases, some of which are preventable with vaccinations and basic medical equipment, Save the Children said.

The conflict has ravaged Syria for three years and

has hit the country's health facilities and health providers hard. Hospitals have been bombed by government forces in rebel-held areas. Armed men with the opposition have forced their way into clinics to have their fighters treated. Many doctors have fled the country to escape harassment from the warring sides. "This humanitarian crisis has fast become a health crisis," Save the Children's regional director Roger Hearn said in a statement. "The desperate measures to which medical personnel are resorting to keep children alive are increasingly harrowing."

Simply finding a doctor is a matter of luck, Hearn also said. Finding one with the necessary equipment and medication to provide proper treatment has become almost impossible,

he added.

The report quotes a doctor saying that most children brought to his clinic suffer from burns and fractures. The doctor, who is not named in the report, says they need complicated operations that cannot be performed in his small facility.

"In some cases, we have to cut their limbs off to try to save their lives, because if we don't they will bleed to death," the doctor told Save the Children.

Also worrying, is the re-emergence of deadly and disfiguring diseases such as polio and measles, which can permanently maim and paralyze, the charity said. It estimates that up to 80,000 children are likely to be infected by polio's most aggressive form, and are silently spreading the disease.

Most illnesses affecting children in war-torn Syria are treatable, it says. Many like measles, diarrhea and respiratory illnesses would be preventable by a functioning health system, the report said.

The charity says a total of 26 measles cases were reported in Syria in 2010, before the war. In contrast, in the first week of 2014, 84 cases of measles in children under five were recorded in northern Syria alone, the report said.

Syrian crisis began as largely peaceful protests against President Bashar Assad's rule in March 2011. The revolt transformed into civil war in which more than 140,000 people have been killed. Millions of Syrians have fled their homes, seeking shelter in neighboring countries or in safer parts of their homeland. □

Venezuelan government forces target protest barricades

JORGE RUEDA
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The opposition mayor of San Cristobal said Monday that Venezuelan government forces attacked and dismantled barricades

raised by protesters at key intersections in his city and fired tear gas and plastic buckshot in residential neighborhoods.

In another western city, Venezuela's government reported a 47-year-old

Chilean woman was shot dead while removing debris from the road beside her home, bringing the death toll from more than a month of protests to 21. The Interior Ministry said in a statement it is investigat-

ing the Sunday death of Giselle Rubilar Figueroa in the Andean city of Merida. San Cristobal Mayor Daniel Ceballos said at least three people were injured and one arrested in actions overnight by National Guard troops in his city in the western state of Tachira, near the border with Colombia where the student-led protests first erupted.

"Here the city is pretty well paralyzed," Ceballos said. "I can't understand how by day there's a peace conference and by night there's gas, repression and violence."

President Nicolas Maduro last week launched a "peace conference" at the state level in San Cristobal. The gathering has gone forward, even though the opposition has refused to participate until Maduro releases jailed protesters and takes other steps.

It's a follow-up to televised national-level meetings in the capital at which some government critics have been invited to raise complaints, though it is unclear

if the discussions will lead to changes.

The weeks of protests that have roiled Venezuela began in San Cristobal when students angry about the attempted sexual assault of a classmate began taking to the streets. The protests soon spread to other cities and attracted mostly members of the middle class tired of the country's soaring inflation, shortages of basic goods and one of the highest murder rates in the world.

In San Cristobal, Caracas and other cities, opposition demonstrators have erected barricades of debris and garbage to block streets and snarl traffic. In some cases, demonstrators say they are trying to protect their neighborhoods from government-supporting thugs.

Maduro has said the protests are meant to destabilize and overthrow his government. During a televised appearance, Maduro displayed a government-published magazine filled with large photos of violence during protests. □



Doctors push Bolivarian National Police blocking their protest from reaching the vice president's office on National Doctor's Day in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, March 10, 2014. Both pro-government and anti-government doctors marched on Monday, but while pro-government doctors marched unimpeded to the presidential palace, opposition doctors were stopped after being blocked by national police. They agreed to pull back after a government representative promised that President Nicolas Maduro would hear their demands on Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Alejandro Cegarra)

Uribe wins Senate seat in Colombia

VIVIAN SEQUERA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Former President Alvaro Uribe is back in elected office, and his winning of a Senate seat could potentially complicate efforts by Colombia's government to make peace with leftist rebels. Uribe's party was the No. 2 vote-getter in the Senate in congressional elections behind the party of President Juan Manuel Santos, whose governing coalition lost some ground. Uribe has vehemently opposed a negotiated end to a 50-year-old internal conflict that would let the Western Hemisphere's biggest remaining rebel army enter political life.

Santos initiated the talks and hopes to soon conclude them successfully. Uribe's new Centro Democratico party looks to have won 20 of the Senate's 102 seats Sunday against 47 for Santos' weakened coal-

ition. Santos' Partido de la U got 21 seats, according to official results with 97 percent of the vote counted. The coalition's fate will depend on the Conservatives, who won 18 seats. But it isn't clear if they will stay with Santos or join Uribe, who as president in 2002-10 seriously weakened the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia military with close U.S. intelligence and logistical assistance. Santos was defense minister in 2006-09. If the Conservatives choose Uribe's camp, he could seek to erect legislative obstacles to any peace deal. Santos is the current front-runner in the May presidential election.

The leftist Polo Democratico party lost ground, meanwhile. It slid from eight Senate seats to five. The Green Alliance held at five seats.

Lower house results were still being compiled. □

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Construction crunch slows Japan tsunami rebuilding

ELAINE KURTENBACH

AP Business Writer

TANOHATA, Japan (AP)

— Tens of thousands of people on Japan's north-eastern coast who were left homeless in the March 2011 tsunami are shivering their way through yet another winter in cramped temporary housing, with perhaps several more to go.

Reconstruction plans are taking shape after three years of debate and red

tape, but shortages of skilled workers and materials are delaying the work. In areas such as Tanohata, a fishing town of 3,800 along a scenic stretch of craggy cliffs and forests, less than a tenth of the new housing has been built. Overall, the figure is less than 8 percent completed, and less than a quarter of projects started.

As Japan's over-stretched construction industry begins gearing up to build

venues and revamp aging infrastructure for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, shortages of skilled carpenters and heavy equipment operators as well as cement and other materials, are frustrating residents and local officials.

"It's just cold, so very cold," Shio Hironai, 53, said of the hut that has served as home since the 20-meter (65-foot) wave slammed into one of the town's tiny coves. "And the roof is

caving in. It has been all along."

Japan on Tuesday marks the third anniversary of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters known as 3.11 that killed 15,884 people and left 2,636 unaccounted for on its north-eastern coast. The country has struggled to rebuild tsunami-hit towns and to clean up radiation from the nuclear crisis. It has earmarked 25 trillion yen (\$250 billion) for reconstruction

through to March 2016. About 50,000 people from Fukushima are still unable to return home due to concerns over radiation.

Hironai, a former fish factory worker who now helps assemble fishing lures in a workshop set up to provide jobs after the disaster, said she hopes to finally move into a new home by May. "The carpenters are just too busy. We had to find a new company to do the work." □

Eurozone seeks deal on bank restructuring body

BRUSSELS (AP) — European finance ministers tried Monday to agree on how to set up a joint authority that can restructure or shut down failing banks. A deal, they say, would be the final step in their effort to create a banking union that would stabilize the financial system.

Governments of the 28-nation EU are currently in tense negotiations with the European Parliament over the fine print of setting up the so-called single resolution mechanism, which will have the power to shut down or restructure banks across Europe.

To avoid significantly delaying the project, an agreement must be reached

by the end of the month to ensure the legislation's passage during Parliament's last plenary voting session in mid-April before elections due in May.

"We all have to make an effort to reach a compromise," French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici insisted upon his arrival for the ministers' meeting in Brussels.

Voicing cautious optimism, Moscovici added the issues at stake are "substantial but not insuperable."

Without a deal, the project would likely be delayed by at least a year. That would hold up the rest of the banking union, in particular the new centralized banking oversight agency,



President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi, left, listens at French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici, second left, and European Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs Olli Rehn, right, during the eurogroup ministerial meeting at the European Council building in Brussels, Monday March 10, 2014.

which is anchored with the European Central Bank.

The finance ministers and

European lawmakers are at odds over the bank rescue authority's decision-

making structure, on the degree of financial solidarity between the participating nations and on whether the fund should be able to borrow money on markets to ensure it can manage in times of crisis.

The new body will be financed by a bank levy that would raise 55 billion euros (\$75 billion) over ten years by 2026. However, before any of its money is used to rescue a bank, the bank's creditors, including holders of large deposits, will be forced to take losses. Ministers gave themselves two days of discussions in Brussels to reach a new negotiating position before resuming talks with lawmakers Wednesday. □

China auto sales rise but local brands weaken

JOE McDONALD

AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP)

— China's auto sales rose 11.3 percent in the first two months of this year but local brands suffered a decline in a sign of intense competition in the world's biggest auto market, an industry group reported Monday. Sales for the two-month period totaled 3.1 million vehicles, according to the

China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Sales by domestic auto brands declined 1 percent to 1.2 million vehicles.

Sales data from January and February often are combined to screen out the impact of the Lunar New Year holiday, which falls at different times in those two months each year.

Overall, sales are "better

than early expectations," said Zhang Xin, an analyst at Guotai Jun'an Securities in Beijing.

Global automakers are spending heavily to develop models for Chinese tastes. That is squeezing fledgling domestic brands that lag in technology as buyers who used to see them as entry-level purchases demand better quality.

"Now, customers might ignore the transition part and go directly to buying better cars," said Zhang. "And they might have problems with selling the old Chinese-brand cars when they want to update."

Rapid overall sales growth has been steadily declining due to China's economic slowdown and curbs on ownership im-

posed in some cities in response to smog and traffic. This year's sales growth is forecast to decelerate from 15.7 percent in 2013 to about 8 to 10 percent. Sales grew 17 percent in December.

Auto sales in February rose 29 percent to 1.3 million vehicles, offsetting January's lackluster 7 percent expansion before the holiday. □

El Salvador: Razor thin margin seen in presidential election

MARCOS ALEMAN
Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Authorities in El Salvador began the final count of votes Monday in a presidential runoff whose razor-close margin led the conservative challenger to announce his party is on "a war footing" to challenge alleged fraud.

Former leftist guerrilla fighter Salvador Sanchez Ceren of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front held a razor-thin lead in a race with high stakes for a country that saw 76,000 people killed in its 1980-1992 civil war.

The margin of 6,634 votes was just over 0.2 percent of the approximately 3 million ballots cast — but Electoral Tribunal president Eugenio Chicas said that is likely irreversible.

Chicas said that votes would be recounted only at about 21 polling places where problems were detected or alleged. The average polling place in the country had about 285 votes.

"The numbers aren't big enough to overcome the difference, but we should wait for the final count," Chicas said Monday. "The 4,000 challenged votes

won't make up the difference."

Norman Quijano, candidate of the conservative Nationalist Republican Alliance, had already denounced the electoral tribunal as "sold out to the dictatorship ... We knew it favored the Farabundo Marti." On Monday, the party known as ARENA asked the country's attorney general to consider

stepping in to oversee the recount.

The former San Salvador mayor also used language with eerie echoes of the country's violent past.

Quijano said his party was on "a war footing" and vowed "to fight with our lives, if necessary" to defend what he claimed was his victory, and suggested the army could play a role in upholding it.

Sanchez Ceren also claimed to have won.

"The men and women of El Salvador are the ones who decide, and if you don't accept the result, you are violating the will of the people," Sanchez Ceren said. "I say to my adversary, to his party, that my administration will welcome them with open arms, so that together we can build a new country." □



Presidential candidate Salvador Sanchez Ceren and vice-presidential candidate Oscar Ortiz wave to supporters in San Salvador, El Salvador.

(AP Photo/Esteban Felix)

Haiti's newest cardinal holds first holy Mass

TRENTON DANIEL
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's new Roman Catholic cardinal celebrated his first Mass this weekend, telling an audience of several thousand people there is a need to show compassion for others.

Cardinal Chibly Langlois reminded the crowd in this impoverished and predominantly Catholic nation of 10 million people that many would go hungry or wouldn't be able to survive were it not for the kindness of others.

The nearly three-hour ceremony took place in a soccer stadium in downtown Port-au-Prince. Haiti's National Cathedral was destroyed in the 2010 earthquake and has yet to be rebuilt. "Many people in this country wouldn't be able to go to school if they didn't have someone in the diaspora to help them," Langlois said from a covered pavilion, reading in Creole instead of the French that is spoken by a tiny elite in Haiti. "Many people wouldn't be able to eat or to have a house if they didn't have a family member to help them. ... We must share what we have." Langlois

was little known outside his hometown of Les Cayes, a coastal town in southern Haiti. But that changed in January when Pope Francis named the 55-year-old bishop and 18 others as his first batch of cardinals. Many of them hail from the developing world, underlining the pope's desire to show the church is eager to serve the poor.

As Haiti's first cardinal, Langlois has become a leader overnight. In his new role, he has led negotiations among political parties to figure out how to hold legislative and local elections that are more than two years overdue. On Sunday, the faithful poured into the stadium to get a firsthand glimpse of Haiti's new cardinal, some snapping photos with cellphones. □

Hernandez, heroine of Cuban revolution, dies at 92

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Melba Hernandez, one of two women who helped Fidel Castro launch his revolutionary battle with a failed 1953 attack on a military barracks, and who was later named a "heroine of the Cuban Revolution" has died at age 92.

A message from the Communist Party's Central Committee published Monday in the party newspaper Granma said Hernandez died the previous night of complications from diabetes. "She is one of the most glorious and beloved combatants of the revolutionary quest, (and an) imperishable example of the Cuban woman," it read.

With her crown of snowy white curls, Hernandez was occasionally seen at official events in her later years, accompanied by one or the other of the Castro brothers. Fidel stepped down due to ill health in 2006, passing command to his younger brother Raul.

Born on July 28, 1921, Hernandez was five years older than Fidel Castro and remained faithful to him throughout her life.

At the time of the July 26, 1953, assault on the Moncada Barracks in the eastern city of Santiago, Hernandez — like Castro — was a young attorney who had grown increasingly fed up with government corruption under Fulgencio Batista, who seized power

in a 1952 coup.

She signed on to Castro's assault plans and obtained 100 uniforms for the attackers from an army sergeant who later joined the movement. She and the only other woman involved in the operation, Haydee Santamaria, sewed insignia showing military ranks onto the uniforms. At a farm in the hours before the operation, the women ironed the uniform slacks and shirts.

The assault failed miserably, with many of the attackers killed by government soldiers and the rest, including Castro, arrested. The women, who were waiting nearby to provide medical assistance to their comrades, were also jailed. Santamaria's brother Abel

was tortured and killed in prison.

Hernandez and Santamaria were freed months before the men and organized support rallies for those still jailed. They also distributed writings by Castro that were smuggled from behind bars — essays that helped rally sympathy for the revolutionaries.

Castro corresponded frequently with Hernandez when he was in prison, giving instructions on helping run his July 26 Movement. After the remaining rebels were freed, Hernandez traveled to Mexico with the group, including her new husband and fellow revolutionary Jesus Montane, to help organize a guerrilla army. □



Aruba Marriott Welcomes Three New Members To The Culinary Team



- **Teddy Bouroncle Executive Chef, Miguel Garcia Executive Sous Chef and Romeo Penacino Executive Sous Chef.**

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (February 21, 2014) – The Aruba Marriott proudly welcomes Teddy Bouroncle, Miguel Garcia and Romeo Penacino to the culinary team. In the position of Executive Chef, Teddy will oversee the overall success of the daily kitchen operations for the three Marriott properties, as

well as supervise all kitchen areas to ensure that a consistent, high quality and innovative product is delivered. Miguel and Romeo will be supporting Teddy. Teddy Bouroncle started his career at the Adams Mark Hotels & Resorts in United States in 2002 as Chef de Partie. Over the last ten years he worked in various culinary positions from Sous Chef, Gastronomic Adviser to Chef, Food & Beverage Manager and Corporate Chef at a number of re-

nown hotels and restaurants in United States, Peru, Colombia, Spain and Singapore. Prior to the Aruba Marriott, Teddy held the position of Executive Chef and Food & Beverage Director at the JW Marriott Cusco in Peru. Miguel Garcia offers over twenty three years of experience in the food service industry and holds extensive knowledge of restaurant operations. Miguel started his career at Hyatt Cerromar in Puerto Rico as Chef de Partie

in 1991 and held the positions of Sous Chef, Executive Sous Chef, Executive Chef, Food & Beverage & Culinary Director of Operations and Food & Beverage & Kitchen Director. Miguel worked as Kitchen & Food & Beverages Director at the Occidental Grand Aruba before joining the Aruba Marriott team. Romeo Penacino held the position of Restaurant Supervisor and Restaurant Chef at Grand Cayman Marriott Beach Resort for five years

before moving to Aruba. Romeo started his career as Line Cook at the Hotel Melia in Argentina in 2000 and gained valuable work experience as Kitchen Sous Chef, Second Cook Line, Jr. Sous Chef and Restaurant Supervisor in Argentina and Cayman Islands throughout the years. The Aruba Marriott gives a warm welcome to Teddy, Miguel and Romeo and wishes them the best of luck as they take on their new responsibilities. □

The Blue Lobster: Excellent Food, Good Prices and Fantastic Service!

PALM BEACH - The Blue Lobster Restaurant has received "The Best Lobster House of Aruba" award, plus the certificate of excellence awarded by TripAdvisor, in two consecutive years 2012 and 2013! Repeat visitors are increasing by constantly making this cozy romantic small place a "must visit" site on every trip to Aruba. The high culinary skills of its international chef has made hundreds of fans already and the human care and professional attention provided by the highly educated service staff are now known around the world. This has been confirmed by our esteemed



clients which are recommending their friends and families to visit The Blue Lobster when coming to Aruba, this from countries far away like Russia, Brazil, Portugal, Germany, Swit-

zerland, England, while 70% of the patrons come directly from the USA. And a great percentage are locals and from other countries of South America. The specials already known to most of our clients vary from regular discounts to even guilders prices instead of dollars every Sunday and during the week at lunch time.

On Monday, Wednesday and Friday three course dinners are offered for just \$38.99 per-person and this includes around 11 lobster dishes, 8 oz., lobster tails



are included in this promo, while there are plenty of options for land lovers too. A visit to the Blue Lobster Restaurant without trying the already famous Blue Lobster Cocktail or the Blue Mojito will not be a complete visit. These are must try cocktails made by their 20 years experienced bartender, and of course all renown brands and liquors are readily available. A carefully chosen wine list which will satisfy the palates of the most extreme wine connoisseurs is another good reason to visit The Blue Lobster.

The Blue Lobster Restau-

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Beauty On The Beach

Megan Janer

She is from Michigan. Her first time in Aruba, she is on her honeymoon, staying at Marriott Ocean Club. She loves the Aruban Beach and local food.

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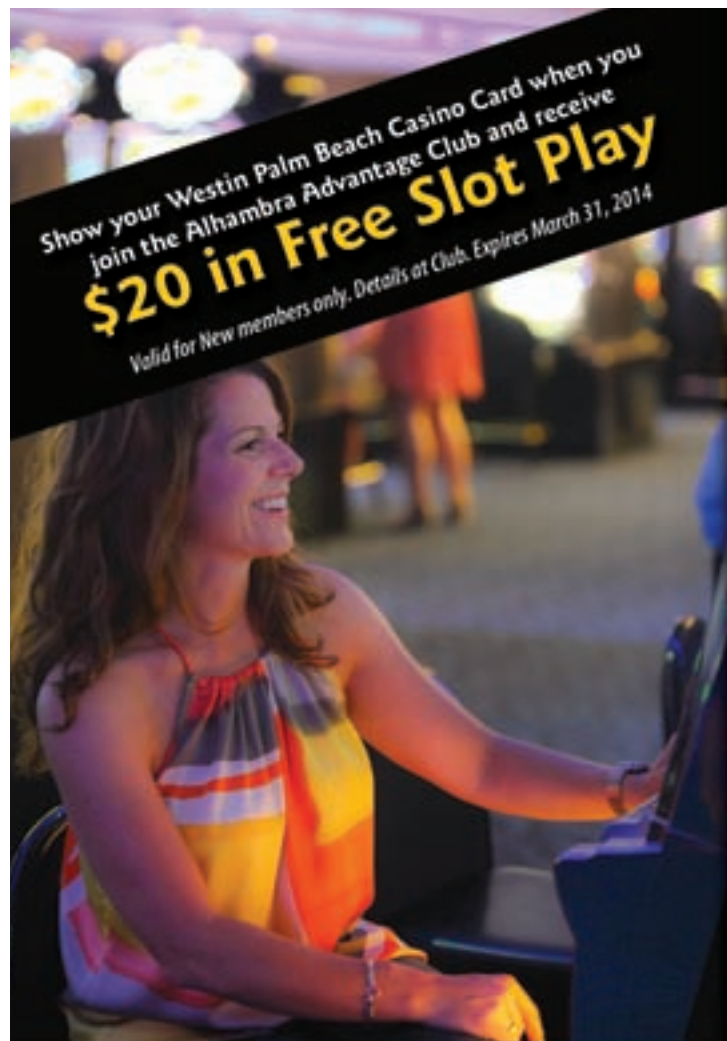
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Bulls extend Heat's skid to 3, win in OT

CHICAGO (AP) — Joakim Noah had 20 points and 12 rebounds, D.J. Augustin scored 22 and the Chicago Bulls beat the Miami Heat 95-88 in overtime Sunday after Jimmy Butler stripped the ball from LeBron James at the end of regulation. Dwyane Wade scored 25 for Miami, but with James struggling again, the Heat dropped their third straight to match their longest losing streak of the season. James scored 17 points on 8-of-23 shooting and couldn't come through after Miami blew a 12-point lead down the stretch. With a chance to win it at the end of regulation, he was stopped by Butler on a layup attempt. In overtime, it was all Bulls. Chicago outscored Miami 9-2, starting with Augustin's 3 just under a minute in. Noah also had seven assists and five blocks with his dad — tennis great Yannick Noah — looking on. Butler added 16 points and 11 rebounds.

MAVERICKS 105, PACERS 94

DALLAS (AP) — Monta Ellis and Devin Harris scored 20 points apiece and Dallas extended Indiana's season-worst losing streak to four games.

The Pacers rallied from 17 points down in the first half and almost wiped out an-



Chicago Bulls Joakim Noah reacts after being fouled by Miami Heat's Greg Oden during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Chicago, Sunday, March 9, 2014.

Associated Press

other double-digit deficit after halftime, but had the same offensive troubles late that plagued them early in the game.

Paul George had 27 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Pacers, who stayed 1½ games up on Miami for the Eastern Conference lead. Dirk Nowitzki scored 14 points on a tough shooting night as the Mavericks swept the two-game season series from the Pacers, who were coming off their most lopsided loss in a 26-point defeat at Houston. Ellis, who also had eight rebounds, put the game away in the final 2 minutes with a pair of jumpers. Dallas' reserves outscored Indiana's 41-4.

ROCKETS 118, TRAIL BLAZERS 113, OT

HOUSTON (AP) — James Harden scored 41 points, Jeremy Lin had 26 and Houston rallied to beat Portland in overtime for its fifth straight victory.

The Trail Blazers led by three in overtime after two free throws by Wesley Matthews. The Rockets took over from there, using an 8-2 run with a 3-pointer from Harden and four points from Lin to make it 116-113 with 35.4 seconds left. Lin added two free throws after that.

Continued on Page 21



More newcomers crowding the PGA Tour landscape

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

DORAL, Fla. (AP) — The road to the Masters is just getting started, and already two

Patrick Reed celebrates his one stroke victory during the final round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 9, 2014, in Doral, Fla. Reed won the tournament with a four-under-par 284.

players have combined to win five times on the PGA Tour. They're not Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. How many would have guessed Jimmy Walker (three wins) and Patrick Reed (two wins) when the wraparound season began in October? Reed might have had his hand up.

In a moment of bravado on

national television after he went wire to wire (with ties) to win the Cadillac Championship, the 23-year-old Reed said, "I'm one of the top five players in the world. I feel like I've proven myself." He has won twice this season, three times dating to August. Reed and Walker are the latest newcomers to winning on the strongest tour

in golf. Harris English won in Mexico last November for his second PGA Tour title in six months. Jordan Spieth won in July, and he started this year by giving himself three chances to win.

It's just another example that winning is getting hard, even for those who are used to winning a lot.

Continued on Page 22

Lundqvist earns 300th win, blanks Wings

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Henrik Lundqvist earned his 300th NHL victory and 49th career shutout in the New York Rangers' 3-0 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Sunday.

.NHL Capsules
Lundqvist made 30 saves in shutting out the Red Wings for the second time this season, as New York completed a three-game season-series sweep of its Original Six rival.

The Swedish goalie is one win shy of tying Mike Richter's franchise record of 301.

He caught Rangers great Ed Giacomin for the club mark in shutouts.

Lundqvist was serenaded by the crowd with chants of "Hen-rik, Hen-rik" in the game's final minute.

Brian Boyle scored in the first period and Chris Kreider had two third-period goals for the Rangers, who won their second straight after an 0-2-1 skid and moved into second place in the Metropolitan Division — one point ahead of Philadelphia.

BRUINS 5, PANTHERS 2

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Torey Krug scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and the Boston Bruins won their season-high fifth straight with a victory over the Florida Panthers.

Chad Johnson made 20 saves, and Chris Kelly, Jarome Iginla, Patrice Bergeron and Andrej Meszaros also scored for Boston.

The Bruins are 7-0-3 during a 10-game stretch on the road, their longest such point streak since 2010-11. The Bruins have taken 14 of 16 from the Panthers, including eight straight by a combined 33-10 score.

Jimmy Hayes scored both goals for Florida, and Roberto Luongo stopped 37 shots.

BLACKHAWKS 2, SABRES 1

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Jonathan Toews scored the go-ahead goal 1:34 into the third period, and the Chicago Blackhawks snapped a two-game road skid with a win over the Buffalo Sabres.

Patrick Kane celebrated his trip home to Buffalo by



New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist (30) deflects a shot on goal during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Detroit Red Wings, Sunday, March 9, 2014, in New York. The Rangers won the game 3-0.

Associated Press

also scoring in helping the Blackhawks beat the Sabres for a fifth consecutive time. Cory Crawford made 20 saves in making his 12 straight start.

By improving to 3-3 since the end of the Olympic break, Chicago (38-13-14) avoided its longest losing streak since a six-game drought from Feb. 2-14, 2012.

Drew Stafford scored for the league-worst Sabres

(19-37-8), who had a three-game home winning streak snapped.

KINGS 4, OILERS 2

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Jeff Carter had two goals and an assist as the Los Angeles Kings won their seventh straight with a victory over the Edmonton Oilers.

Alec Martinez and Trevor Lewis also scored for the Kings, who have their longest winning streak since

taking nine in a row from Jan. 21-Feb. 6, 2010.

Taylor Hall and Sam Gagner responded for the Oilers, who had a two-game winning streak snapped and were outshot 50-27.

BLUES 3, WILD 2, SO

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — T.J. Oshie and Alexander Steen scored shootout goals and the St. Louis Blues took over the top spot in the NHL standings with a win over the Minnesota Wild. □

Chesson Hadley wins Puerto Rico Open

RIO GRANDE, Puerto Rico (AP) — Chesson Hadley overcame his understandable nervousness to clinch his first PGA Tour title on Sunday, winning the Puerto Rico Open by two strokes ahead of Danny Lee.

"I was so nervous," Hadley said. "I did not eat well last night. I did not eat well this morning."

"I wasn't vomiting or anything, but there were a couple of times where I felt nauseous out on the course," Hadley said. "I woke up ready to go about 5:30, 6, and I never really went back to sleep, just kind of tossed and turned."

Making his 13th PGA Tour start, the 26-year-old Hadley birdied the final two

holes for a 5-under 67. He's the first rookie winner since Jordan Spieth in July in the John Deere Classic.

"This is what you dream of as a 6-year-old out in the bunker, hitting bunker shots on the range," Hadley said. "It'll be nice to sleep on it and wake up in the morning knowing I'm a PGA Tour champion and nobody can ever take that away from me."

Hadley finished at 21-under 267 and earned \$630,000, a two-year tour exemption and spots in The Players Championship, PGA Championship and Tournament of Champions. He will move into the mid-60s in the world ranking, giving him a chance to get into

the Masters if he can crack the top 50 at the end of the Texas Open.

"It opens up a lot of doors," Hadley said. "It guarantees me a major. I've never played in a major before." He birdied three of the first five holes, chipping in on the par-5 fifth.

"It's all about the start and I got off to a great start," Hadley said. "Probably the shot that won me the tournament was the chip in on 5. I mean I was dead over there and I hit the nastiest little nipper over there, and it snuck in the left door."

Lee birdied three of the last four holes for a 68. The South Korean-born New Zealander won the 2008 U.S. Amateur and also has



U.S. Chesson Hadley celebrates with his wife Amanda and his newborn son Hughes, who sits inside his trophy, after winning the Puerto Rico Open PGA golf tournament in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, Sunday, March 9, 2014.

Associated Press

European and Web.com victories.

"I really felt like I did my best. I gave it my best, but Chesson was just playing rock solid," Lee said. "He made a couple of good up-and-downs from bad tee shots. When he plays like that, it's just really hard to catch. He just didn't

make any silly mistakes at all."

Ben Martin shot a 66 to finish third at 17 under. David Toms was another stroke back along with Carl Pettersson, Jason Gore, Wes Roach and Richard H. Lee. Roach and Lee shot 67, Toms and Pettersson 69, and Gore 70. □

4th-seeded Tomas Berdych falls in Indian Wells

JIM SHORT

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, California

(AP) — Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut knocked out Tomas Berdych on Sunday in the second round of the BNP Paribas Open, beating the fourth-seeded Czech player 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Berdych had won 11 matches in a row in February and is 16-4 this year.

"He really handled the tough situation today really well," Berdych said. "Anything I touched today was basically bad and was wrong....definitely my worst match that I had this year." Bautista Agut's third-round opponent will be Finnish veteran Jarkko Nieminen, who progressed when Florian Mayer withdrew while trailing 6-2, 1-0.

Two-time tournament champion Novak Djokovic, seeded second, was a 7-6 (1), 6-2 winner over Victor Hanesescu of Romania in their second-round match. "I was not very happy with



Roberto Bautista Agut, of Spain, celebrates his 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Tomas Berdych, of the Czech Republic, in a match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament on Sunday, March 9, 2014, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

my performance but it was a straight set win," Djokovic said. "I'm going to have to work very hard on the practice court to get bet-

ter."

In women's play, second-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska coasted into the fourth round with a 6-0, 6-0

victory over Annika Beck of Germany; 19-year-old Eugenie Bouchard of Canada beat ninth-seeded Sara Errani of Italy 6-3, 6-3; and

2011 champion Caroline Wozniacki topped qualifier Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan 7-6 (7), 3-6, 6-1.

Sixth-seeded Juan Martin del Potro withdrew because of ligament damage in his left wrist. The Argentine player also pulled out of the Dubai tournament last week.

Ninth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France was also eliminated, falling 6-4, 6-4 to countryman Julien Beneteau.

John Isner, the No. 12 seed and the only remaining American from the original 14-man contingent, advanced with a 7-6 (5), 6-3 victory over Russia's Nikolay Davydenko. Isner, slowed by an ankle injury earlier this season, said he feels good physically and mentally.

"In the U.S., (on a) hard court that bounces high and pretty slow, and have the fans on my side, I can't ask for anything more," Isner said. □

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NBA Capsules

Continued from Page 18

Harden hit a 3 with seconds left in regulation to send it to overtime.

LaMarcus Aldridge led Portland with 28 points and 12 rebounds, but managed just two points in OT. Dwight Howard had 17 points with 12 rebounds, and Chandler Parsons scored 16 for Houston.

LAKERS 114, THUNDER 110

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jodie Meeks scored 24 of his career-high 42 points in the second half, helping the Lakers overcome a triple-double by Thunder star Kevin Durant.

Pau Gasol added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the injury-ravaged Lakers, who had lost 29 of their previous 37 games. Meeks was 11 of 18 from the field and 14 for 14 at the foul line while becoming the third player to reach the 30-point mark this season for Los Angeles. Durant had 27 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists for his third triple-double this season. Serge Ibaka had 21 points and 15 boards for Oklahoma City.

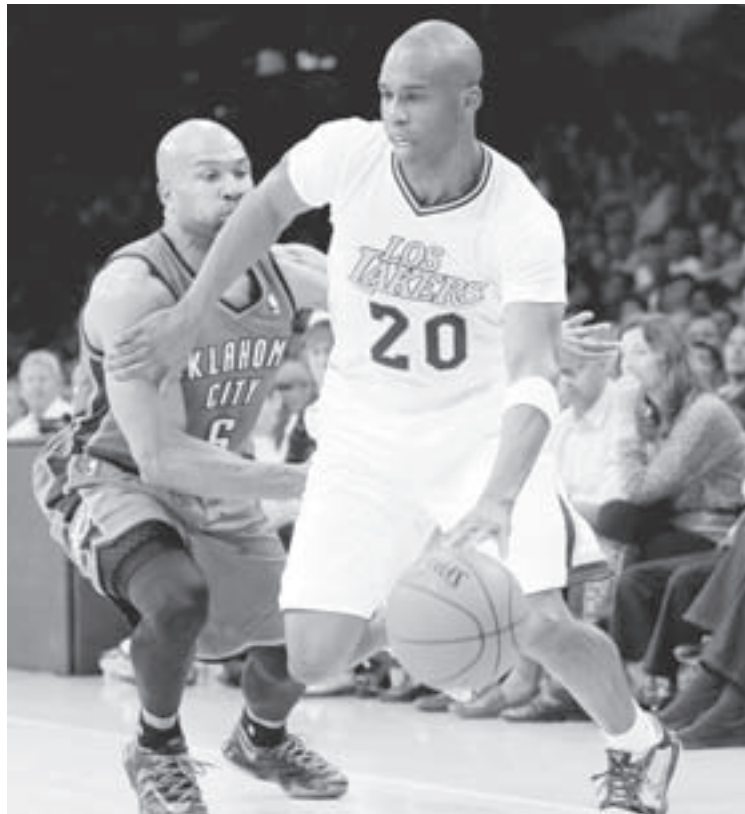
The Lakers trailed the Thunder by as many as 18 in the second quarter before taking their first lead on a pair of free throws by Meeks that made it 71-70 with 4:35 left in the third.

WARRIORS 113, SUNS 107

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry overcame a strained right quad to finish with 18 points and nine assists, and Golden State held off Phoenix for its fourth straight win.

David Lee had 26 points and nine rebounds, and Klay Thompson scored 22 points for the Warriors, who built an 18-point lead early in the fourth quarter before the Suns surged back.

Gerald Green had 25 points and six rebounds,



Los Angeles Lakers shooting guard Jodie Meeks, right, drives around Oklahoma City Thunder point guard Derek Fisher, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, March 9, 2014. The Lakers won 114-110.

Associated Press

and Goran Dragic added 24 points and six assists for the Suns, who dropped into a tie with Memphis for eighth place in the Western Conference standings.

Golden State is 9-2 since the All-Star break and a season-high 16 games over .500. The Warriors are two games ahead of Dallas for sixth in the West.

NETS 104, KINGS 89

NEW YORK (AP) — Marcus Thornton scored 15 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter against his old team, and Joe Johnson added 18 points to help Brooklyn overcome an injury to Paul Pierce in a victory over Sacramento.

Alan Anderson had 11 points and Shaun Livingston and Deron Williams each scored 10 as the Nets won for the fifth time in six games.

DeMarcus Cousins had 20 points and 28 rebounds to lead the Kings. Rudy Gay added 20 points.

Brooklyn led by 16 in the first half after losing Pierce

to a right shoulder injury early in the first quarter.

Sacramento trailed 49-40 at halftime but opened the third quarter with a 17-8 run to tie the score at 57 with 7:38 left in the period. Brooklyn outscored Sacramento 47-32 the rest of the way.

PELICANS 111, NUGGETS 107, OT

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Anthony Davis tied his career high with 32 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and blocked six shots, and New Orleans erased a 16-point deficit to capture its third straight victory by downing Denver.

Tyreke Evans had 20 points and Anthony Morrow added 14, including a 15-foot pullup in the lane that tied the game at 94 with 1 second left in regulation.

Davis' free throws gave New Orleans the lead for good at 106-104, and his block of Ty Lawson's driving layup prevented Denver from tying it with 1:14 left in overtime. □



France's Nacer Bouhanni reacts as he crosses the finish line to win the first stage of the Paris-Nice cycling race, in Mantes la Jolie, west of Paris, Sunday, March 9, 2014.

Associated Press

Moreno Hofland wins 2nd stage of Paris-Nice race

SAINT-GEORGES-SUR-BAULCHE, France (AP)

Moreno Hofland of the Netherlands won the second stage of the Paris-Nice race in a sprint finish on Monday, and Nacer Bouhanni of France retained the overall lead.

The 22-year-old Hofland won in 4 hours, 53 minutes, 46 seconds on the 205-kilometer (127-mile) trek from Rambouillet to Saint-Georges-sur-Baulche for his first career stage win. The Dutchman moved into third place overall.

"It's a little bit of a surprise because with one kilometer to go I was too far away," Hofland said.

"But in the end I managed to get on John Degenkolb's wheel and then I decided to attack early in order to surprise him a bit. I've been in good form these past few weeks and I hope to keep it going."

Degenkolb finished second and stayed in second overall, two seconds behind Bouhanni, who finished third. Bouhanni won Sunday's first stage despite falling and needing treatment for cuts to his left knee.

"I was a little bit apprehen-

sive, but it was a good day for me," Bouhanni said. "I felt a bit of pain in my knee over the first 100 kilometers (62 miles) but then after that it went away."

I wasn't even thinking about it at the end and it didn't bother me when I was sprinting."

Aleksejs Saramotins of Latvia and Anthony Delaplace of France broke away early and opened up a sizeable lead, but with 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) to go they were only three minutes ahead of the chasing pack and were caught shortly after.

Nearing the finish, a crash brought down several sprinters hoping to compete for the stage win, including American rider Tyler Farrar, Lars Boom of the Netherlands and Gianni Meersman of Belgium, who was third in Sunday's stage. Tuesday's third stage is mostly flat, with the exception of one small Category 3 climb, and takes riders over 180 kilometers (112 miles) from Toucy to Circuit de Nevers Magny-Cours, a motor racing circuit located in central France which hosted Formula One races until 2008. □

King leads super-tight Iditarod race in Alaska

RACHEL D'ORO
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— Four-time champion Jeff King took a razor-thin lead in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Sunday, trading places with his closest rival by departing a checkpoint one minute earlier on Alaska's wind-scoured western coast.

Aliy Zirkle led hours before when she arrived at the Norton Bay village of Koyuk one minute ahead of King on Sunday afternoon.

King rested his 12-dog team at the checkpoint for three hours and 42 minutes, while Zirkle and her 11 dogs took a break for three hours and 44 minutes. King departed Koyuk at 5:50 p.m. Sunday, and Zirkle got back on the trail at 5:51 p.m.

They are on a 48-mile (77-kilometer) dash to the next checkpoint of Elim on Golovin Bay, 123 miles (197 kilometers) from the finish line in Nome.

King last won in 2006 and is trying to be only the second musher to win five races.

Zirkle has come in second place the last two years in the nearly 1,000-mile (1,600-kilometer) race. She is seeking to become only the third woman to win the



Iditarod musher Jeff King, from Denali, Alaska, leaves the Koyuk checkpoint in Koyuk, Alaska, during the 2014 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Sunday, March 9, 2014.

Associated Press

race and the first woman since the late Susan Butcher in 1990.

The racers, who have two more checkpoints after Elim and before Nome, are expected to begin arriving in Nome no later than Tues-

day.

Snowfall has been light this winter in the frontier town of nearly 3,700, so it has been stockpiling snow, which was being trucked to Front Street for the final stretch to the finish line.

The race began March 2 with 69 teams. As of Sunday afternoon, 53 teams were left on the trail, which was marked by long stretches of bare and rocky ground that made for an icy, treacherous trail in the ear-

ly part of the race.

The first to reach Nome wins \$50,000 and a new truck. The 29 teams after that win cash prizes decreasing on a sliding scale. All other teams finishing the race receive \$1,049. □

PGA Tour

Continued from Page 18

Each season seems to bring a new crop of younger players who have a lot of game and no fear. Russell Henley won the Sony Open in his debut as a PGA Tour member. Just over a year later, he overcame a two-shot lead playing with Rory McIlroy in the final group at the Honda Classic and won a four-hole playoff.

Scott Stallings won at Torrey Pines for his third PGA Tour win. He's 28.

The last three winners of the World Golf Championships - Dustin Johnson, Jason Day and Reed - are all in their 20s. Ten of the 17 winners this season are in their 20s. That includes 26-year-old Chesson Hadley, who won the Puerto Rico Open on Sunday



Russell Henley celebrates as he tied for the lead by chipping in for birdie on the 14th hole during the final round of the Honda Classic golf tournament, Sunday, March 2, 2014, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Henley won the tournament after a four-man playoff.

Associated Press

about the time Reed was beating the strongest field so far this year at Doral.

"Look at Russell Henley

- he's won twice," Reed said. "Harris English has won twice, Jordan Spieth won once. Myself, I've won

three times. It's just one of those things that we've worked very hard - all of us - to get where we are. And it's definitely shown what we are doing is working. To see the young guys coming out and playing and putting it to the veterans is always nice."

Walker turned 35 in January, so it's hard to consider him one of the younger players. Then again, injuries slowed the start of his career. And once he finally won at the Frys.com Open to kick off the new wrap-around season, he has made it a habit. Over the weekend, Walker talked about new opportunities that have come his way following his three wins. He's not interested in anything but playing good golf.

Now that he has tasted winning, his appetite is only

growing.

Walker leads the FedEx Cup and the Ryder Cup standings. Johnson is No. 2 on both lists, while Reed is at No. 3 in the FedEx and No. 4 in the Ryder Cup. Five of the top nine players in the Ryder Cup standings were not on the last U.S. team at Muirfield Village for the Presidents Cup.

Remember, it's still only March. The first of four majors has yet to be played. Reed has never even played in a major.

He rubbed a few people the wrong way when he declared himself among the top five in the world (he's actually No. 20). It showed what he thought about his game and that he's not afraid to say it.

So if he's top five, who are the other four?

"Tiger Woods, of course," Reed said. □

U.S. network to scan workers with secret clearances

STEPHEN BRAUN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Stung by internal security lapses, U.S. intelligence officials plan to use a sweeping electronic system to continually monitor workers with secret clearances, current and former officials told The Associated Press. The system is intended to identify rogue agents, corrupt officials and leakers and draws on a Defense Department model under development for more than a decade, according to officials and documents reviewed by the AP. Intelligence officials have long wanted a computerized system that could monitor employees, in part to foil leakers like former

National Security Agency analyst Edward Snowden, whose revelations bared massive U.S. surveillance operations. Such a system might also detect troubling signs in those who already hold security clearances, such as the shooter in last year's mass killings at Washington's Navy Yard. Many of the nearly 4 million government employees who hold secret clearances would be scanned by the new system, officials say. An administration review of the government's security clearance process due this month is expected to support continuous monitoring as part of a package of comprehensive changes. Privacy advocates and

government employee union officials expressed concerns that electronic monitoring could intrude into individuals' private lives, prompt flawed investigations and put sensitive personal data at greater risk. Supporters say the system would have safeguards. Workers with secret clearances are already required to undergo background checks of their finances and private lives before they are hired and again during periodic re-investigations. "What we need is a system of continuous evaluation where when someone is in the system and they're cleared initially, then we have a way of monitoring



This Jan. 29, 2014 file photo shows Director of National Intelligence James Clapper on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

their behavior, both their electronic behavior on the job as well as off the job," Director of National Intelligence James Clapper told Congress last month. Clapper said the proposed system would extend "across the government," drawing on "six or seven data streams." Monitoring of employees at some agencies could begin as early as September and be fully operational across the government by September 2016. The price tag, Clapper conceded, "is going to be costly."

Budget documents released last week show the Pentagon requesting nearly \$9 million next year for insider threat-related research.

Current and former officials familiar with the DNI's planning said the monitoring system will collect records from multiple sources about employees. They will use private credit agencies, law enforcement databases and threat lists, military and other government records, licenses, data services and public record repositories. During random spot checks, the system's software will sift through the data to spot unusual behavior patterns. The system could also link to outside databases to flag questionable behavior, said the officials, who spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the plans. Investigators will analyze the information along with data separately collected from social media and, when necessary, polygraph tests.

The proposed system would mimic monitoring systems already in use by airlines and banks, but it most closely draws from a 10-year-old Pentagon research project known as the Automated Continuous Evaluation System, or ACES, officials said. The ACES program, designed by researchers from the Monterey, California, based Defense Personnel and Security Research Center and defense contractor Northrop Grumman, has passed several pilot tests but is not yet in full operation.

The ACES project and clearance-related Defense Department research cost more than \$84 million over the past decade, documents show. Gene Barlow Jr., a spokesman for the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive, the DNI agency coordinating the system's development, said ACES and other internal monitoring systems developed by federal agencies "will align and integrate" with the DNI's system.

According to project documents, ACES links to up to 40 databases. While many are government and public data streams already available, ACES also taps into the three major credit agencies — Experian, Equifax and Trans Union.

One former official familiar with ACES said researchers considered adding records from medical and mental health files but due to privacy concerns left that decision unresolved for policy makers.

Edward Snowden speaks at SXSW conference

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — NSA leaker Edward Snowden, speaking via live video conference Monday, told a packed audience at the South By Southwest Interactive Festival that he acted because he believed the U.S. Constitution had been "violated on a massive scale."

The former NSA contractor, who remains in Moscow living in temporary asylum, faces felony charges in the U.S. after revealing the agency's mass surveillance program by leaking thousands of classified documents to media outlets.

Christopher Soghoian, principal technologist at the American Civil Liberties Union, spoke to Snowden from the Austin event along with Snowden's legal adviser, the ACLU's Ben Wizner.

The hour-long conversation was extensive and Snowden touched on a number of issues. He dispensed advice on how U.S. citizens can keep their web-surfing activities more private by using a free service called Tor, which encrypts web traffic. He also called on the technology industry to create more



Edward Snowden talks during a simulcast conversation during the SXSW Interactive Festival on Monday, March 10, 2014, in Austin, Texas. Snowden talked with American Civil Liberties Union's principal technologist Christopher Soghoian, and answered tweeted questions.

Associated Press

software and services that help guard individual privacy.

Snowden appeared to have no regrets about exposing the U.S. government's surveillance methods.

"I took an oath to support the Constitution, and I felt the Constitution was violated on a massive scale," he told the audience.

The ACLU offered a live blog of Snowden's talk on its website and the Texas Tribune's website hosted a live video stream.

Fugitive WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange spoke at the SXSW conference in

a similar manner on Saturday. Assange is living in asylum at the Ecuadorian embassy in London.

Documents released over the past year by Snowden have revealed that the NSA sweeps up millions of Americans' phone and Internet records. The subsequent controversy has led President Barack Obama to ask agencies and Congress to consider some reforms. On Monday, Germany dismissed a claim by Snowden that it had buckled under American demands that it undermine privacy rights for German citizens.

Stocks inch down on China growth worries

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

Stocks drifted to a slightly lower finish Monday as investors sifted through a blend of discouraging economic data from China and Japan as well as ongoing uncertainty over Russia's incursion into Ukraine. Major market indexes pared their losses as the day drew to a close, aided by some high-flying stocks, including Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Chiquita Brands International and Southwest Airlines.

In the absence of U.S. economic data, investors focused on news that China's exports slumped 18 percent in February. The report reinforced fears about the outlook for the world's second-largest economy. In addition, Japan reported a record current account deficit for January and lowered its economic growth estimate for the October-December quarter to 0.7 percent from 1 percent.

The reports made for a downbeat start for the market as investors seized the moment to recalibrate their stock holdings.

"It was a little bit of an excuse to take some money off the table," said Ron Florence, deputy chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank. "We have geopolitical uncertainty, so (it's) a good excuse to re-evaluate your risk exposure. It's going to be par for the course for this year."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index edged down 0.87 of a point to close at 1,877.17. It had been down 11 points

earlier.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 34.04 points, or 0.2 percent, to 16,418.68. The Nasdaq composite fell 1.77 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 4,334.45.

The three major U.S. index-

ny Cliffs Natural Resources was among the biggest decliners in the S&P 500, shedding 70 cents, or 3.8 percent to \$17.95.

"The market is growing more pessimistic around growth in China," said Da-

U.S. economic reports in recent weeks were a reflection of unusually severe winter weather, not a broad economic slowdown. Better-than-expected payroll numbers last week also helped encour-



Trader Jonathan Corpina, left, and Peter Tuchman work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks drifted to a slightly lower finish Monday as investors sifted through a blend of discouraging economic data from China and Japan.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

es are still up for the month, and only the Dow is down for the year. The S&P 500 ended Monday up 1.6 percent for the year, while the Nasdaq finished up 3.8 percent.

The downbeat economic report from China hurt several industry sectors heavily reliant on Chinese economic growth, in particular, materials, energy and industrials. Six of the 10 sectors of the S&P 500 index ended lower, led by industrials. Mining compa-

vid Chalupnik, head of equities for Nuveen Asset Management. "Expectations have been coming down, but the numbers have been disappointing even those reduced expectations."

Despite the disappointing data from China, some market watchers anticipate that last week's gains will continue.

The S&P 500 index notched record highs three times last week as investors grew more confident that weak

age investors.

"In general, I think the market will move past the poor China export numbers fairly quickly," said James Liu, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Funds. "There's still a lot of fundamental support for the S&P at this particular range." Chalupnik also anticipates Monday's decline isn't telling of the market's trajectory for the week ahead, barring more fallout from Russia's deployment of troops in Ukraine. □

EBay rejects Icahn's picks for its board

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— EBay is urging shareholders to support its directors and reject the pair put up by billionaire activist investor Carl Icahn.

The two sides traded barbs Monday in the latest round in the ongoing tussle between the e-commerce company and Icahn who wants to split it in two.

Icahn and eBay began their dispute in January, when Icahn disclosed a less than 1 percent stake in the company.

He wants eBay to spin off its PayPal mobile commerce arm, which is growing revenue faster than the rest of the company. EBay, on the other hand, strongly believes PayPal should stay part of the company.

EBay Inc. said Monday its four directors up for reelection — CEO John Donahoe, company co-founder and managing director Fred Anderson, Intuit co-founder Scott Cook, and former Agilent Technologies CEO Edward Barnholt — should be supported by shareholders.

Icahn has put forth two candidates for the board who are his employees and has urged shareholders to vote against eBay's directors.

In an online post Monday, Icahn reiterated that he believes PayPal should be spun off, the directors up for reelection should resign, and his candidates for the board should be voted in. He has complained that Donahoe has not acted in the best interest of shareholders. For example, he said he believes eBay sold video-chat site Skype prematurely and cost shareholders \$4 billion.

EBay responded in support of its CEO, saying that the company's stock price has more than quadrupled since Donahoe took the helm in 2008. It said Icahn is acting in pursuit of his own "profit motives."

Shares of eBay, which is based in San Jose, California, fell 75 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$58.41 in afternoon trading. □

Sbarro again files for reorganization

NEW YORK (AP) — Sbarro said Monday that it is filing for bankruptcy reorganization, the struggling pizza chain's second trip through bankruptcy court in less than three years.

The filing comes after the company shuttered 155 of its U.S. locations last month. Sbarro had cited declining traffic in the mall food

courts where it does much of its business for the closures. The company did not immediately provide details on whether any marketing or in-store changes were planned to help update its image and boost sales.

It says it still has more than 800 locations worldwide.

Sbarro also filed for bank-

ruptcy protection in April 2011 and emerged a few months later, saying that it significantly cut its debt and received a capital infusion. A new CEO then led a push to revitalize the chain's image by touting new recipes and ovens. But the efforts apparently didn't take hold.

Sbarro, based in Melville,

New York, says its strategy of store closings and balance sheet restructuring will improve its profitability and reduce outstanding debt by more than 80 percent. It said its filing is designed to "allow for a quick exit from bankruptcy" as it executes a broader plan developed by the new management team. □

American Air says asset sales totaled \$381 million

DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The CEO of American Airlines says his company is getting \$381 million from selling takeoff and landing rights at New York's LaGuardia Airport and Reagan National Airport outside Washington. Doug Parker said his airline was paid more than it expected to get for the rights — called slots — at the busy airports. The U.S. Justice Department put a higher figure — more than \$425 million — on American's gain. Parker

said that the government might have added the value of slots that American picked up at New York's Kennedy Airport, "That's their valuation, not ours." The Justice Department did not immediately comment. In comments filed Monday in federal district court in Washington, the Justice Department said the value of the slots proved that it drove a hard bargain last year when it settled its antitrust lawsuit against the merger of American and US Airways. The airlines

agreed to give up some of their slots at LaGuardia and Reagan and two gates each at airports in Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Miami and Dallas. The Justice Department said that American's sale of the LaGuardia slots to Southwest Airlines Co. and Virgin America is complete, while the transfer of Reagan slots to Southwest, JetBlue Airways Corp. and Virgin America is expected to wrap up soon. Each airline had announced that it won bidding for the slots, but the sale prices were

not disclosed. American traded some of the Reagan slots to JetBlue for slots at Kennedy Airport, a deal that Parker said was underway before the lawsuit. Slots at Reagan, LaGuardia, Kennedy and the Newark, New Jersey, airport are limited by the government, making them valuable when they hit the market. A pair of slots is needed for each round-trip flight. Parker told an investor conference in New York that the slots had been recently appraised at \$225 million, so getting \$381 million was

"great news."

Consumer groups, lawmakers, the Detroit airport and Delta Air Lines Inc. lodged complaints about the settlement. Some consumer groups complained that the settlement didn't go far enough to protect travelers. The Justice Department said that after reviewing public comments, it still believes that the settlement will offset any lost competition from allowing the nation's third-biggest and fifth-biggest airlines to combine. □

McDonald's struggles in US worsened by snow

CANDICE CHOI
MICHELLE CHAPMAN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — McDonald's is fighting to hold onto customers in the U.S. and much of the world. The world's biggest hamburger chain said Monday that sales fell 1.4 percent at established U.S. locations. It blamed the harsh winter weather, but conceded that "challenging industry dynamics" also played a role. After years of outperforming its rivals, McDonald's has been struggling to boost sales as people flock to new chains that have popped up quickly across the U.S. by positioning themselves as a step up from traditional fast food in terms of quality, for a little extra money. They also offer greater customization, meaning diners can dictate exactly what toppings they want.

Globally, McDonald's said sales declined 0.3 percent at locations open at least 13 months in February. It warned that its muted performance so far this year could hurt first-quarter profit margins. In region encompassing the Middle East, Africa and Asia, sales declined 2.6 percent. The company cited weakness in Japan and Australia, as well as a shift in the timing of the Chinese New Year. Executives at McDonald's Corp., based in Illinois, acknowledge Americans' changing demands when it comes to fast food. "A long time ago, mass appeal had to be mass appeal," Jeff Stratton, the president of McDonald's USA, said in an interview with The Associated Press last month. "That's not necessarily the case anymore today." So the company's restau-

rants are adapting to a world where McDonald's traditional strength — consistency — isn't always enough. For example, McDonald's is rolling out new prep tables that can hold

In Southern California, the company is even testing a "build-your-own-burger" concept that lets people use tablets to tap out the bread, cheese and other toppings they want on their

across its more than 14,000 U.S. locations would require considerable changes to its kitchens. It would also need the backing of the independent franchisees that own and operate the majority of its restaurants in the U.S. In the meantime, McDonald's has made other changes to its menu, including the option to get egg whites in breakfast sandwiches, and the addition of chicken McWraps, which are intended to appeal to people who want fresher, healthier food. Europe was a relative bright spot, with sales up 0.6 percent on a strong performance in the U.K. and growth in France. McDonald's has more than 35,000 locations in more than 100 countries. Its stock shed 31 cents to \$95.19 in morning trading. □



A McDonald's Big Mac sandwich is photographed at a McDonald's restaurant in Robinson Township, Pa. McDonald's saw a key sales figure drop in the U.S. again in February 2014, as the world's biggest hamburger chain struggles to beat back competition and adapt to changing eating habits.

(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

more toppings and sauces, a sign that it plans to give customers greater variety.

burgers. Executives say results are promising so far, but rolling out the offering

World has new top banana as Chiquita, Fyffes merge

S. POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Yes, they have more bananas. Fruit supply companies Chiquita of the United States and Fyffes of Ireland said Monday they had agreed to merge to create the world's biggest banana supplier. The all-shares agreement means the two companies will become ChiquitaFyffes PLC, be traded on the New York Stock Exchange and be headquartered in Dublin, a more tax-effi-

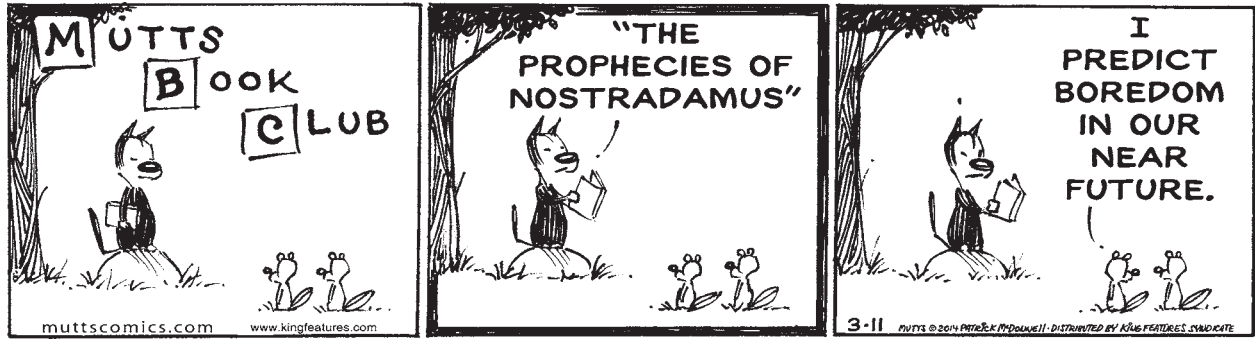
cient corporate base. The companies said the deal, which requires shareholder and regulatory approval in Ireland and the United States, would generate \$40 million in pre-tax savings through more efficient operations. Current Fyffes and Chiquita shareholders each would own half of a combined operation expected to generate \$4.6 billion in annual sales. The two companies said the merger would create a banana behemoth that

ships more than 160 million crates worldwide, about a quarter more than either of their main rivals, Dole and Del Monte. Chiquita-Fyffes also would become the world's No. 3 distributor of pineapples and melons. Shares in both companies surged, particularly Dublin-based Fyffes, because Monday's deal valued Fyffes shares at 1.22 euros (\$1.66). Fyffes rose 46 percent to 1.30 euros (\$1.80) on the Irish Stock Exchange. Chiquita rose nearly 13 percent

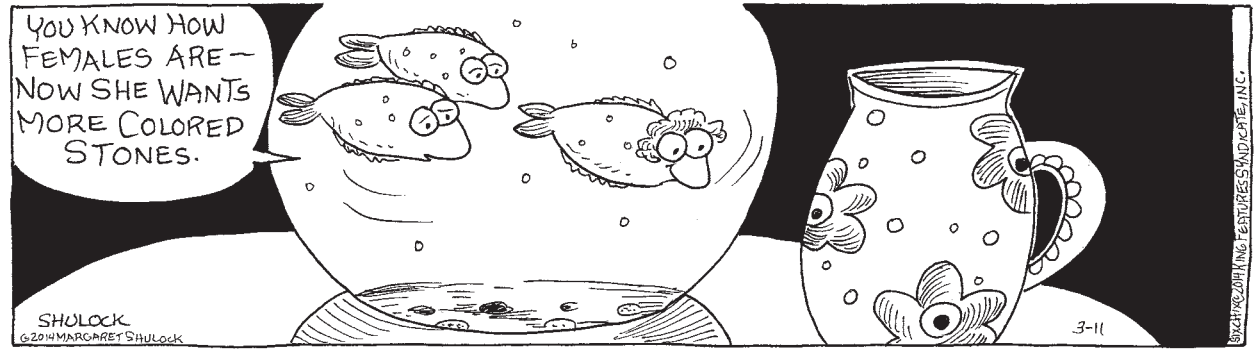
to \$12.20 in New York. Fyffes, pronounced 'Fifes', is Europe's biggest banana importer and the oldest industry brand, dating to 1929; Irish wits have long cited the company's presence here as proof that Ireland really is a banana republic. The company enjoys exclusive export rights for the Central American country of Belize. David McCann, Fyffes' chairman, will become chief executive officer of the combined company,

while the chief executive of Charlotte, North Carolina-based Chiquita, Ed Lonergan, will become its chairman. Lonergan said their "natural strategic partnership" would "provide customers with a more diverse product mix and choice." However, shoppers used to seeing bananas bearing the bold blue stickers of Chiquita or Fyffes aren't expected to notice any difference there. The two brands are staying separate. □

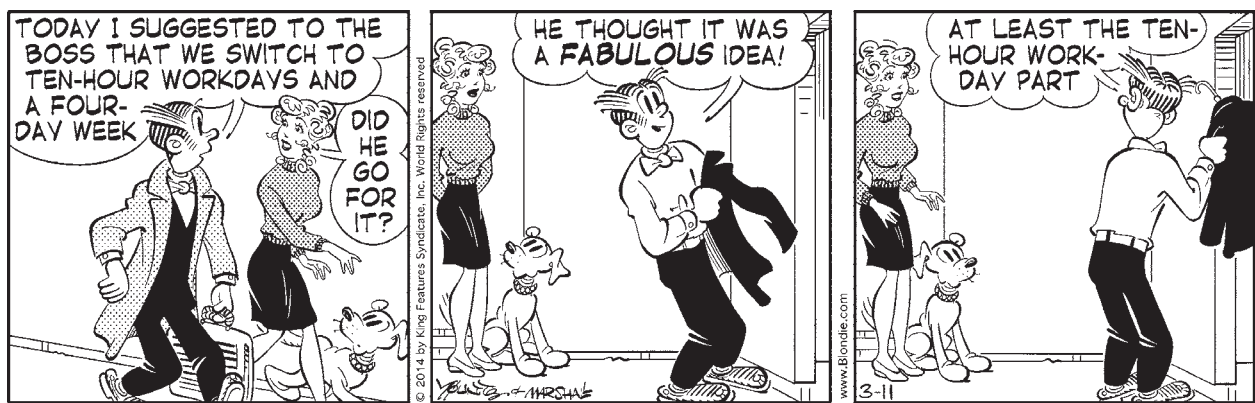
Mutts



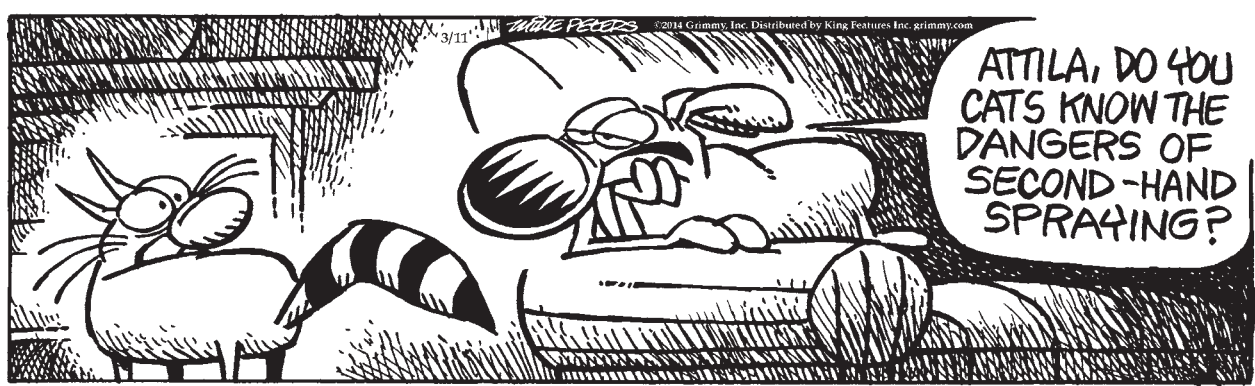
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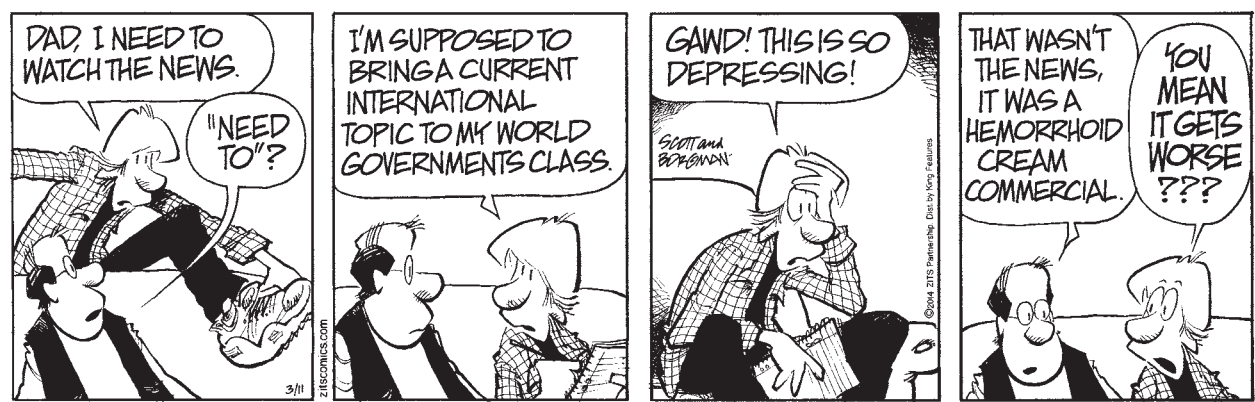
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		8	5		3	6		
	5			6			7	
1								9
6				5				4
	2		3		1		6	
7				4				3
8								6
	7			9			5	
		4	8		6	3		

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	9	8	2	4	1	6	7	3
3	4	6	5	7	8	1	9	2
7	1	2	6	9	3	5	8	4
8	7	9	1	5	2	3	4	6
1	3	5	4	6	9	8	2	7
6	2	4	8	3	7	9	5	1
9	6	3	7	8	4	2	1	5
4	8	1	3	2	5	7	6	9
2	5	7	9	1	6	4	3	8

ACROSS

- 1 Huron or Tahoe
- 5 Loose, as a rope
- 10 ___ on; incite
- 14 Neat as ___
- 15 Make broader
- 16 Prepare to be photographed
- 17 Patty ___; type of sandwich
- 18 Pianist Previn
- 19 ___ up; reveal one's thoughts
- 20 Ultra
- 22 Most uncanny
- 24 Inventor ___ Whitney
- 25 Spaghetti sauce herb
- 26 Evening coffee, perhaps
- 29 Companion
- 30 Chairs & stools
- 34 Unslightly growth
- 35 Is able to
- 36 Recluse
- 37 Years of life
- 38 Seafarer
- 40 In favor of
- 41 Compensated
- 43 Religious sister
- 44 Narrow valley
- 45 Astaire and Savage
- 46 Day after Fri.
- 47 Napped leather
- 48 Cause of disease, often
- 50 Split ___ soup
- 51 Natural environment
- 54 Longed for
- 58 Wading bird
- 59 Heats in the microwave
- 61 Bird of peace
- 62 Merriment
- 63 Squeak when walked on, as a floorboard
- 64 Nights before big events
- 65 Frau's husband
- 66 Ford or Fonda
- 67 Cold and wet

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
			24			25						
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37			38				39			40		
41		42			43				44			
45				46				47				
		48		49			50					
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59	60				61			
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/11/14

Monday's Puzzle Solved

ASSET	CRAB	ITCH
LLAMA	LEVI	MALE
MARES	ONES	PROD
SMARTEST	SO LONG	
GIVE	DEVOTEE	
SERENE	DETER	
APE	GROUP	NECKS
WIND	YUKON	DUNK
SCOOP	SETUP	LEI
MOATS	KITTEN	
ASSISTS	VEER	
SPINET	DISRUPTS	
WAGE	ABED	CAIRO
ACME	COLE	ENTER
NEAR	HALO	STAKE

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DOWN

- 1 Like a poor excuse
- 2 High point
- 3 Scottish skirt
- 4 Implore
- 5 Hindu teacher
- 6 Queue
- 7 Tally up
- 8 Trix or Kix
- 9 Leg joints
- 10 Doting grandparent, often
- 11 Vatican leader
- 12 ___ up; spends
- 13 Landlady's collection
- 21 Wee fellow
- 23 Staircase piece
- 25 Chiquita ___
- 26 Sleepy or Doc
- 27 Very willing
- 28 Thin pancake
- 29 Salary
- 31 Plenty
- 32 Worn out
- 33 Pebble
- 35 MA's Cape ___

- 36 Chicken's mom
- 38 Stop in on
- 39 Abdomen
- 42 Consultant
- 44 Protected
- 46 Surgical stitch
- 47 Adriatic or Red
- 49 Salad dressing choice
- 50 Bothersome
- 51 On drugs
- 52 Qualified
- 53 Coffin platform
- 54 Twelve months
- 55 ___ Scotia
- 56 Like 2, 4 and 6
- 57 Writing table
- 60 Olin or Berry

Los Angeles police charge man in severed head case

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles police said Monday they've solved the case of a severed human head and other body parts found two years ago near the Hollywood sign.

Police announced the arrest of Gabriel Campos-Martinez, 38, on suspicion of killing Hervey Coronado Medellin, 66. Campos-Martinez was arrested in San Antonio, Texas, on Sunday with the help of local authorities and is being held on \$1 million bail pending an extradition hearing.

Prosecutors in Los Angeles charged Campos-Martinez on Monday with one felony count of murder with malice aforethought in the slaying of Medellin, who they said had been

Campos-Martinez's roommate in 2012 for about six months.

It wasn't clear if Campos-Martinez was represented by an attorney. San Antonio police said they don't know, Bexar County Sheriff's officials said they don't disclose the information and a message with the San Antonio Central Magistrate Office wasn't returned.

A felony complaint alleges Medellin was killed on or around Dec. 27, 2011. A coroner's report found that he had died of asphyxiation and ruled it a homicide.

Two women discovered Medellin's head while walking dogs on a trail in Griffith Park on Jan. 17, 2012. □

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Oceanfront \$17k
3 BEDRM OV \$17,000

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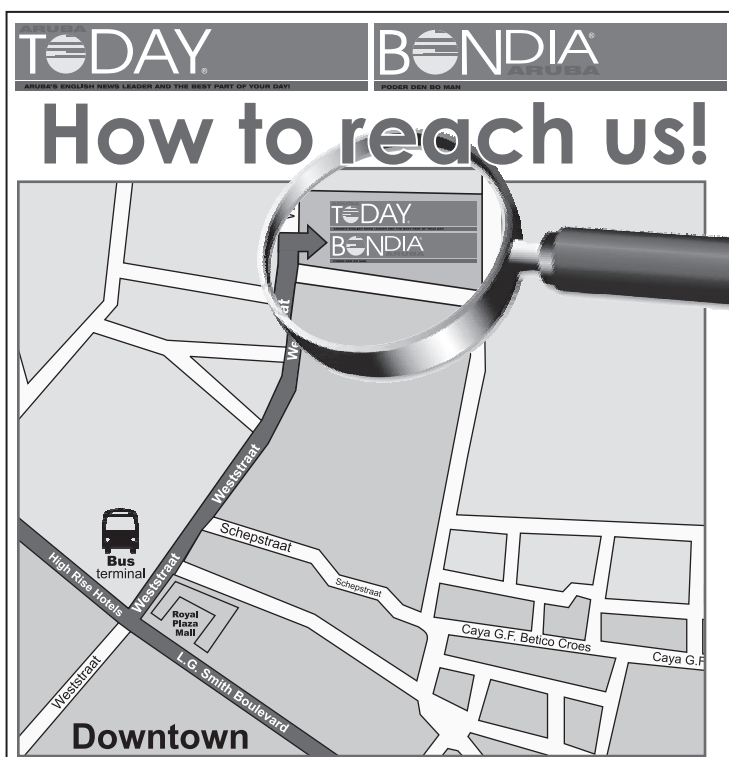
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Elephants prove discerning listeners of humans

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Wild elephants can distinguish between human languages, and they can tell whether a voice comes from a man, woman or boy, a new study says. That's what researchers found when they played recordings of people for elephants in Kenya. Scientists say this is an advanced thinking skill that other animals haven't shown. It lets elephants figure out who is a threat and who isn't. The result shows that while humans are studying elephants, the clever animals are also studying people and drawing on their famed powers of memory, said study author Karen McComb. "Basically they have developed this very rich knowledge of the humans that they share their habitat with," said McComb, a professor of animal behavior and cognition at the University of Sussex in England.

"Memory is key. They must build up that knowledge somehow." The study was released Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. McComb and colleagues went to Amboseli National Park in Kenya, where hundreds of wild elephants live among humans, sometimes coming in conflict over scarce water. The scientists used voice recordings of Maasai men, who on occasion kill elephants in confrontations over grazing for cattle, and Kamba men, who are less of a threat to the elephants. The recordings contained the same phrase in two different languages: "Look over there. A group of el-

ephants is coming." By about a two-to-one margin, the elephants reacted defensively — retreating and gathering in a bunch — more to the Maasai language recording because it was associated with the more threatening human tribe, said study co-author Graeme Shannon of Colorado State University. "They are making such a fine-level discrimination using human language skills," Shannon said. "They're able to acquire quite detailed knowledge. The only way of doing this is with an exceptionally large brain." They repeated the experiment with recordings of Maasai men and women. Since women almost never spear elephants, the animals reacted less to the women's voices. The same thing happened when they substituted young boys' voices. "Making this kind of fine distinctions in human voice patterns is quite remarkable," said Emory University animal cognition expert Frans de Waal, who was not part of the study.

While it shows quite a bit about elephant intelligence and adaptability, it also indicates a problem, said biologist Josh Plotnik, founder of Think Elephants International, a research and advocacy group. "This is both fascinating in that it supports evidence we already have that these animals are behaviorally quite flexible, but also sad because it suggests that the conflict between humans and elephants is growing," Plotnik, who was not part of the study, wrote in an email. In yet another experiment McComb and Shannon altered female and male voices, making female



This handout photo provided by the University of Sussex, taken in April 2011, shows a wild elephant in Amboseli National Park in Kenya reacting to sound played by scientists in experiments that show they can distinguish between human languages and genders.

Associated Press

voices sound male by lowering their tone and resonance, and males sound female by raising their

itches. Those kinds of changes fool most humans, but the clever elephants weren't tricked, McComb

said. They still moved away from the altered male voices and not the altered female voices. □

Depth, distance reduce impact of California quake

EUREKA, California (AP) — One of the largest earthquakes to hit California in decades rattled the state's northern coast, but its depth and distance from shore reduced the impact on land, where there were no reports of injuries or damage, scientists and authorities said on Monday. The magnitude-6.9 quake struck at 10:18 p.m. PDT Sunday and was centered 50 miles (80 kilometers) west of Eureka and about 10 miles (16 kilometers) beneath the Pacific seabed, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. By late Monday morning, it had already produced 20 aftershocks of magnitude-3.5 or larger, and more were

expected over the coming days, said Keith Knudsen, deputy director of the USGS's Earthquake Science Center in Menlo Park, California. Knudsen said there was also a 5 to 10 percent chance of a larger quake in the area in the next week. Sunday's quake was felt widely across the region, but both fire and sheriff's officials in Humboldt County said they had no reports of any damage or injuries. Humboldt County includes most of the populated areas closest to the epicenter. "Everybody felt it region-wide to the point that there was concern for damage," said Humboldt

County Sheriff's Lt. Steve Knight. But other than triggering some home alarms, the county escaped unharmed, he said. "We're very grateful." There was no tsunami danger for the region as well, according to the National Tsunami Warning Center. More than 3,000 people reported on the USGS website that they felt the quake within hours of it striking, including some across the border in Oregon. Amandip Heer, a manager at a 76 Gas Station and convenience store in Eureka, described the quake as a "vibration," but said nothing fell off the shelves at the store, and there was no other damage. □

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This image released by HBO shows Woody Harrelson, left, and Matthew McConaughey from the HBO series "True Detective." Associated Press

Glitches spoil 'True Detective' finale online

NEW YORK (AP) — HBO says its streaming service is running again, although disappointingly late for many anxious fans of the "True Detective" series. Most fans who tried to log onto the "HBO GO" stream for the Sunday-night season finale of "True Detective" weren't able to do so because the service crashed. HBO said Monday the service interruption was due to "an excessive

amount of traffic" soon after the 9 p.m. Eastern start of the episode.

Many viewers saw a spinning circle indicating the show was loading, but it didn't.

HBO had similar issues with its service last year surrounding episodes of "Game of Thrones."

Company spokesman Jeff Cusson (KEW-sahn) said Monday the service is now working. □

Singer Mel Tillis recovering from heart surgery

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Country Music Hall of Fame singer Mel Tillis is recovering in Nashville after heart surgery over the weekend.

According to a statement from his daughter, Pam Tillis, the 81-year-old singer required a "routine heart procedure," but is expected to make a full recovery. "In typical Mel Tillis fashion, he's already cutting up and cracking jokes with the nurses," Tillis said in a statement. Four scheduled shows have been canceled due to his surgery. Tillis became a successful songwriter and singer despite dealing with a stutter. He has recorded more than 60 albums, and his hits include "Good Woman



This Oct. 27, 2013 file photo shows country singer Mel Tillis arriving at the ceremony for the 2013 inductions into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Blues," "Coca Cola Cowboy," and "Southern Rain." He's written top songs for

Miranda Lambert 'ready to rock' as she preps album



This Feb. 24, 2014 photo shows singer Miranda Lambert in Nashville, Tenn. Lambert will release her fifth album, "Platinum," on June 3.

Associated Press

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The good news? Miranda Lambert has completed her much anticipated,

though somewhat overdue, fifth album. The bad news? You have to wait until June 3 for "Platinum," a full two years and eight months since her last LP. Why the wait? Lambert released an album with her Pistol Annies trio in 2013 and extended her tour. She also decided she was at a place in her career where she'd earned the time to fulfill her entire creative vision, and it simply took time.

"From the day you kinda go I need to start looking for songs and writing songs, it feels like no matter how much time you have, you're rushed," Lambert said. "And so I didn't want to rush it at all. To me it's all about timing and making sure that you can feel like you can finally sit there and go, OK, the album's done, and never have a moment where you go, I wish we could change that or I wish we had a different song."

An early listen reveals the singer's most ambitious album yet. At 16 songs, "Plat-

inum" sprawls across genre and style and expands on her already adventurous sense of song choice. She says everyone urged her to trim a few songs and conform to the usual country conventions.

"Now when you listen to it as a whole, what do you take off?" she asked. The album paints a picture of Lambert's life as she reaches 30.

She wrote or co-wrote eight songs and chose the others based on how they reflected her personality or world view.

The first single, "Automatic," suggests returning to a slower time and way of thinking. She contemplates her self-image in "Bathroom Mirror," takes on tabloid scrutiny in "Priscilla" and teams up with several guests on songs that underscore her range and willingness to experiment.

The collaboration with Carrie Underwood on "Something Bad" brings together two of country's most popular stars. □

George Strait, Ray Price, Bobby Bare, Kenny Rogers and many more. □



George Saunders holds up a trophy after winning the Folio Prize at the St Pancras Renaissance Hotel in London, Monday, March 10, 2014.

Associated Press

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — American writer George Saunders won the 40,000 pound (\$67,000) Folio Prize for literature on Monday with his humorous and disturbing short-story collection "Tenth of December." The chair of the judging panel, poet Lavinia Greenlaw, said Saunders' "darkly

playful" stories explore "the human self under ordinary and extraordinary pressure." Saunders beat seven other finalists, including Kent Haruf, Rachel Kushner, Anne Carson and Eimear McBride. Saunders has won acclaim for his satirically edged short stories, and last week won the Story Prize for short

George Saunders wins Folio Prize for literature

fiction. His tales place characters with recognizable human emotions in quietly unsettling situations. In one story in "Tenth of December," a man is used as a guinea pig in unusual drug trials, while another features women trafficked to be human lawn ornaments. He's probably best known outside literary circles for a commencement speech to Syracuse University's class of 2013, whose key message was: "Try to be kinder." It went viral on the Internet and will soon be published as a book. Saunders, 55, picked up that theme at the prize ceremony, saying the goal of

fiction' "is to develop our ability to be more sympathetic to others." He said he had always felt fiction "was about softening the borders between myself and other people." I think in a time like ours, where so much of the public discourse tells us that we are antagonistic, that we're separate, fiction is a wonderful way to remind ourselves that actually that's a lie," he said. Short stories — sometimes seen as the novel's less-glamorous cousin — are experiencing something of a renaissance, with Alice Munro's Nobel Prize for Literature followed by Saunders' victory over his long-form competitors. "It's like with women's

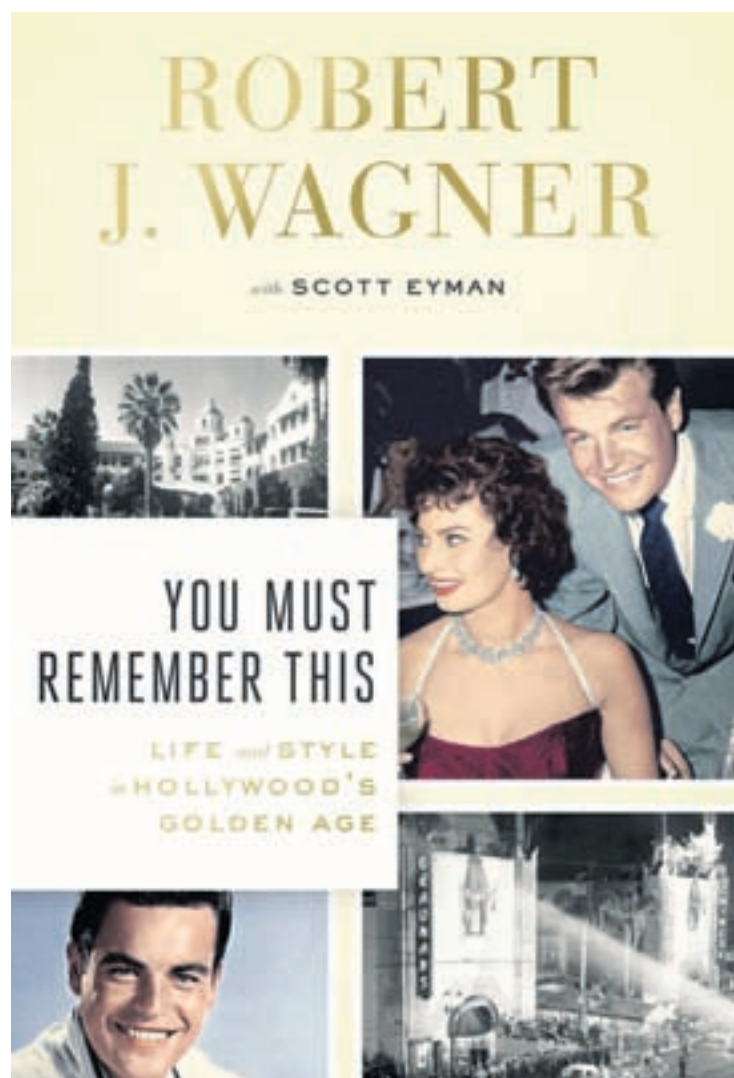
magazines, when they say, 'Red is back,'" Saunders said. "When was it gone? But it seems like a nice moment for it." The Folio Prize is in its first year and hopes to rival the Booker Prize as the English-speaking world's most prestigious literary award. It is open to any book published in Britain in the previous year, which has led some in the U.K. literary world to fear it will become U.S.-dominated. Five of the eight finalists for this year's prize were American. Saunders said Britain shouldn't be worried. "I think any country that produces Zadie Smith and Martin Amis — you're good," he said. □

Actor Robert Wagner recalls old Hollywood's style

DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
Associated Press

Long before movies could talk, the people on the big screen were setting trends and styles for the rest of us. Even today, there's a sense of curiosity about what the stars are doing behind the gates of those great old mansions. If only we knew somebody who could get us in the door for a peek. In terms of grace and style, you couldn't ask for a better tour director than actor Robert Wagner. "You Must Remember This" is his valentine to the Hollywood he knew as a kid and enjoyed even more as a gape-worthy star in his own right. Wagner's father, a successful businessman, moved the family from Detroit to the Bel Air neighborhood of Los Angeles in 1937 when Wagner was 7. He saw his share of celebrities while clearing tables at the Bel Air Tea Room, caddying at the country club and hanging out with the sons and dating the daughters of movie stars and studio executives. By 1949, when 20th Century Fox began grooming him for stardom, Wagner was

well on his way to knowing quite a few of Hollywood's most interesting citizens. Those intimate connections give "You Must Remember This" a personal touch as Wagner, writing with film historian Scott Eyman, recounts how an orange grove became a city of dreams and desires with a unique nightlife and playtime. Where the stars lived probably said as much about them as real people as anything. For example, James Cagney's house in Beverly Hills was small and rustic by star standards, mainly a place to stay when he was away from his East Coast farms. James Stewart lived in a homey but unpretentious Tudor-style home in Beverly Hills — and bought and tore down the house next door to make room for flowers and vegetables. The home of producer William Goetz and his wife, hostess extraordinaire Edie Goetz, didn't stand out in L.A.'s Westwood district. Inside, the walls were covered by artwork the Louvre would envy — Cezanne, Renoir, Van Gogh, Matisse and more. "A Degas



This book cover image released by Viking shows "You Must Remember This: Life and Style in Hollywood's Golden Age," by Robert J. Wagner with Scott Eyman.

Associated Press

bronze ballerina sat on a table," Wagner recalls. "I remember touching its skirt with awe, and hoping no-

body noticed me." Clothing styles could show off a star's best qualities or hide the flaws. It wasn't coincidence that Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby wore hats in public as their hair thinned, a fedora being easier to slip on and off than a toupee. "He liked to fix the handkerchief of any man who couldn't fold one as perfectly as he could," Wagner says, "which definitely included yours truly." Parties could be sumptuous, of course, and sometimes carried a theme. One night in the 1930s, for a hospital theme, actress Carole Lombard asked guests to wear hospital gowns over their evening clothes and had dinner served on an operating table. A different kind of fun could be found aboard the gambling ships moored just beyond the reach of local authorities. Wagner writes with the easy charm he brought to the television series "Hart to Hart" and scores of movies and TV appearances. His amusing and interesting reflections carry a touch of wistfulness. □

The Hammock Fallacy



PAUL KRUGMAN
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Hypocrisy is the tribute that vice pays to virtue. So when you see something like the current scramble by Republicans to declare their deep concern for America's poor, it's a good sign, indicating a positive change in social norms. Goodbye, sneering at the 47 percent; hello, fake compassion.

And the big new poverty report from the House Budget Committee, led by Rep. Paul Ryan, offers additional reasons for optimism. Ryan used to rely on "scholarship" from places like the Heritage Foundation. Remember when Heritage declared that the Ryan budget would reduce unemployment to a ludicrous 2.8 percent, then tried to cover its tracks? This time, however, Ryan is citing a lot of actual social science research.

Unfortunately, the research he cites doesn't actually support his assertions. Even more important, his whole premise about why poverty persists is demonstrably wrong.

To understand where the new report is coming from, it helps to recall something that Ryan said two years ago: "We don't want to turn the safety net into a hammock that lulls able-bodied people to lives of dependency and complacency, that drains them of their will and their incentive to make the most of their lives." There are actually two assertions here. First, anti-poverty programs breed complacency; that is, they discourage work. Second, complacency - the failure of the poor to work as much as they should - is what perpetuates poverty.

The budget committee report is almost entirely concerned with the first assertion. It notes that there has been a large decline in labor force participation, and it claims that anti-poverty programs, which reduce the incentive to work, are a major reason for this decline. Then come 200 pages of text and 683 footnotes, designed to create the impression that the scholarly research literature supports the report's claims.

But it doesn't. In some cases, Ryan and colleagues outright misstate what the research says, drawing outraged protests from a number of prominent scholars about the misrepresentation of their work. More often, however, the report engages in argument by innuendo. It makes

an assertion about the bad effects of a program, then mentions a number of studies of that program, and thereby leaves the impression that those studies support its assertion, even though they don't.

What does scholarly research on anti-poverty programs actually say? We have quite good evidence on the effects of food stamps and Medicaid, which draw most of Ryan's ire - and which his budgets propose slashing drastically. Food stamps, it seems, do lead to a reduction in work and working hours, but the effect is modest. Medicaid has little, if any, effect on work effort.

Overall, here's the verdict of one comprehensive survey: "While there are significant behavioral side effects of many programs, their aggregate impact is very small." In short, Ryan's poverty report, like his famous budget plan, is a con job. Now, you can still argue that making anti-poverty programs much more generous would indeed reduce the incentive to work. If you look at cross-country comparisons, you find that low-income households in the United States, which does less to help the poor than any other major advanced nation, work much more than their counterparts abroad. So, yes, incentives do have some effect on work effort.

But why, exactly, should that be such a concern? Ryan would have us believe that the "hammock" created by the social safety net is the reason that so many Americans remain trapped in poverty. But the evidence says nothing of the kind. After all, if generous aid to the poor perpetuates poverty, the United States - which treats its poor far more harshly than other rich countries, and induces them to work much longer hours - should lead the West in social mobility, in the fraction of those born poor who work their way up the scale. In fact, it's just the opposite: America has less social mobility than most other advanced countries.

And there's no puzzle why: It's hard for young people to get ahead when they suffer from poor nutrition, inadequate medical care and lack of access to good education. The anti-poverty programs that we have actually do a lot to help people rise. For example, Americans who received early access to food stamps were healthier and more productive in later life than those who didn't. But we don't do enough along these lines. The reason that so many Americans remain trapped in poverty isn't that the government helps them too much; it's that it helps them too little.

Which brings us back to the hypocrisy issue. It is, in a way, nice to see the likes of Ryan at least talking about the need to help the poor. But somehow their notion of aiding the poor involves slashing benefits while cutting taxes on the rich. Funny how that works. □



The Self(ie) Generation



CHARLES M. BLOW
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A fascinating new survey by the Pew Research Center finds that millennials (defined by Pew as Americans ages 18 to 33) are drifting away from traditional institutions - political, religious and cultural.

Before we make a value judgment about these changes, let's lay them out and understand how fundamentally they will transform the structure of American society and our conception of societal norms. According to the study and to Pew's analysis of it:

- "Half of millennials now describe themselves as political independents and 29 percent are not affiliated with any religion - numbers that are at or near the highest levels of political and religious disaffiliation recorded for any generation in the last quarter-century."

- "Millennials are the first in the modern era to have higher levels of student loan debt, poverty and unemployment, and lower levels of wealth and personal income than their two immediate predecessor generations had at the same age."

- "Just 26 percent of millennials are married. When they were the age that millennials are now, 36 percent of Gen Xers, 48 percent of baby boomers and 65 percent of the members of the silent generation were mar-

ried."

- "Asked a longstanding social science survey question, 'Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people,' just 19 percent of millennials say most people can be trusted, compared with 31 percent of Gen Xers, 37 percent of silents and 40 percent of boomers."

- Millennials "are 'digital natives' - the only generation for which" the Internet, mobile technology and social media "are not something they've had to adapt to."

Younger people in general are less likely to say they are patriotic or religious, but the gap between millennial and Generation X is greater than the gap between most other generations. Millennials also are far more likely than other generations to say they are supporters of gay rights.

Although half of millennials describe themselves as independent, 57 percent say their views on social issues "have become more liberal" over the course of their lives. This is in direct opposition to older generations, who, Pew says, have about half or more of the group saying their social views "have become more conservative." One might argue that millennials simply haven't lived long enough to hit the triggers that might engender more conservatism - marriage, families, mortgages - but it could just as well be that this group of young people is fundamentally different.

Part of the political issue is, again, that millennials seem to shun institutions. Only about a third of them said there was a "great deal of difference" between the Republican and Democratic parties. Still, Republicans have the most to worry about with this group. As the survey puts it: "Even so, this generation stood out in the past two presidential elections as strikingly Democratic. Accord-

ing to national exit polls, the young-old partisan voting gaps in 2008 and 2012 were among the largest in the modern era, with millennials far more supportive than older generations of Barack Obama."

Ten years ago, 24 percent of millennials identified as Republicans, but that number has steadily dropped and now stands at a paltry 17 percent. By contrast, the percent identifying as Democrats over the period fell only from 30 percent to 27 percent.

Furthermore, millennials were the sole generation in which a majority supported bigger government with more services as opposed to smaller government with fewer services. And although most millennials, like most people in older generations, disapproved of the new health care law, millennials were the only generation in which a majority said it was the government's responsibility to ensure universal health care coverage.

Part of this divergence results from the fact that millennials are more racially diverse than any other generation, with 43 percent of Americans in this age group nonwhite. When you look just at white millennials, a majority still support smaller government and reject the notion that it's the government's job to ensure universal health care.

If there is an opening for Republicans, it is here: Millennials' views on abortion and gun rights aren't much dissimilar from that of other generations, and millennials are far less likely to say they are environmentalists.

All in all, we seem to be experiencing a wave of liberal-minded detach-ees, a generation in which institutions are subordinate to the individual and social networks are digitally generated rather than interpersonally accrued.

This is not only the generation of the self; it's the generation of the selfie. □

Need For Speeders Puts Tiny Florida City On Brink Of Erasure

LIZETTE ALVAREZ

© 2014 New York Times

HAMPTON, Fla. - It is easy for motorists driving down busy U.S. Highway 301 to miss this speck of a city in rural north-central Florida: Fiddle with the car radio, unwrap a pack of gum, gaze out the window at the sunset and, whoosh, it's gone. So it fell to the police to force hurried travelers to stop and savor the 1,260-foot ribbon of roadway belonging to this city. Hidden by trash bins or concealed in a stretch of woods, the officers - a word loosely applied here - pointed their

Now, Hampton, an 89-year-old city, is fighting legislative momentum to wipe it off the map, after a state audit last month uncovered reams of financial irregularities, shoddy record-keeping and missing funds. The state attorney, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Bradford County Sheriff's Office recently opened a criminal investigation, focusing primarily on the actions of the city's three former full-time employees - the city clerk, the maintenance operator and the police chief.

"If half of this is remotely

ter utility operator. (There was no accident report filed.)

Those logbooks might have clarified why the city's elder-care center did not receive a water bill for seven years and why three city commissioners went unbilled for 17 months. As for the city's pre-1999 records, Florida floods were blamed for obliterating them.

"I have said it before: It's something out of a Southern Gothic novel. You can't make this stuff up," said state Sen. Rob Bradley, whose district includes the city. "This situation went on

County.

Mustering salvation is a tall task for a city of this size and condition. Hampton lost its three full-time employees to the scandal, seldom runs City Council elections because nobody wants the jobs and often skips holding monthly council meetings altogether.

Even picking a mayor among the five City Council members proved an ordeal. The post was finally filled in September. Unfortunately, it was short-lived; two months into the job, the new mayor, Barry Moore, was charged with

sonville to Gainesville.

Even state Rep. Charles E. Van Zant Sr., who represents Hampton and spearheaded the audit, got a speeding ticket here in 2011. (He said his speeding ticket - which he paid - had nothing to do with ordering the audit.)

In 2011, the city took in \$268,624 from traffic fines. The sum was \$197,247 in 2010 and \$151,000 in 2012. Nonetheless, the city operated at a deficit.

Traffic fines were by far the chief source of revenue in a city with two gas station convenience stores and only scrapings of property taxes. In fact, Jim Mitzel, 50, a former mayor who left office in 2008 after a conflict with the police chief and the city clerk, said he helped Hampton annex the tiny slice of U.S. 301 in the mid-1990s simply to help fill city coffers.

"This town has struggled financially for years and years," Mitzel said. "But once we got 301, our chief went crazy."

The city went so crazy that it was not long before AAA put it on its list of notorious speed traps. Nothing changed.

"The last couple of years were the worst," Mitzel said. "They went after people like fresh meat. They pulled out in front of semis."

In pursuit of speeders, the city's police force grew to 17 from one, some of them volunteers and a few of them driving uninsured cars. Smith said he did not know how many were actually police officers and how many were trained in radar detection.

City grievances ran deeper than the tickets, but no one ever challenged it robustly, not wanting to rock the boat, Mitzel said.

There was chatter about nepotism at City Hall. Jane Hall, the former city clerk, is the mother of the former maintenance operator, Adam Hall, who also ran the water system, and the wife of Charles Hall, a longtime city councilman. Her daughter also worked there for a short time.

"I called it, the City of Halls," Mitzel added. □



The new mayor of Hampton, Fla., Barry Moore, who is in jail awaiting trial for possession of Oxycodone with intent to sell, March 6, 2014. Hampton, an 89-year-old city, is fighting legislative momentum to wipe it off the map, after a state audit last month uncovered reams of financial irregularities, shoddy record-keeping and missing funds.

(Edward Linsmier/The New York Times)

radar devices.

Between 2011 and 2012, Hampton's officers issued 12,698 speeding tickets to motorists, many likely caught outside Hampton's strip of highway.

But, as it turns out, surprised motorists are not the only ones getting burned. So many speeding tickets were churned out for so many years and with such brazenness that this city of 477 residents came under scrutiny - and not just for revenue raising with a radar gun.

true, they've used the city as a personal pocketbook," said the Bradford County sheriff, Gordon Smith, who routinely butted heads with John Hodges, Hampton's police chief.

In the audit, the city sometimes offered an explanation for its slipshod documentation.

The reason, for example, that no water meter logbooks before April 2012 could be found was that they were "lost in a swamp," the result of a car accident involving the wa-

for so long and the mismanagement was so deep, we have to seriously consider abolishing the government."

Hampton, a mishmash of trailers and wood-frame houses, some ramshackle, some not, has about 30 days to come up with a plan and make a genuine attempt to right itself or it will tumble into oblivion.

The state Legislature would then take up a vote to dissolve it, handing over management of the city's 1 square mile to Bradford

possession of Oxycodone with intent to sell. He now sits in jail awaiting trial.

For years, complaints about Hampton streamed in to local politicians and the county sheriff, most often about the speed trap. Tens of thousands of motorists were stopped for speeding, even though they had little time to slow down from 65 mph to 55 mph, particularly coming from the south. Among them were the legions of University of Florida football fans making game-day pilgrimages from Jack-